

COVID-19

Lee Savarrio - Chief of Dentistry Update (20-5-2020)

The Chief Dental Officer has today issued a letter (attached), including an anticipated timeline, detailing a 3 phase approach to Remobilisation of NHS (General) Dental Services in Scotland.

As I have mentioned in my last few updates we have already started to concentrate our efforts on looking at our recovery plans and new ways of working in the future. So within NHS GG&C we are already preparing for Phase 1, currently looking at updating our GDS triage form and flowchart for referrals, to be able to deliver the expanded list of treatments for acute and essential care, as set out in SDCEP guidance referenced in the CDO letter.

Phase 2 describes the restarting of dental practices; however the Urgent Dental Centre's will still continue to see all patients for treatments involving aerosol generating procedures. We will therefore look for continued engagement and support from GDS colleagues to work alongside PDS to staff our PDS Hubs as we expand our clinical offer to patients from general dental practice.

We are awaiting a practice recovery toolkit from SDCEP which will provide further guidance and support to dental practices on how to prepare for providing care. These measures will identify what will need to be in place for practices to re-open and I will circulate this to you as soon as it is available. This is anticipated to be available next week.

I want to thank you all for your commitment and perseverance. I understand this has been a very difficult couple of months for everyone involved in providing dental services. Ultimately all we want is the best for our patients. The next few months are going to be equally challenging but I am sure that working together we can rise to the challenge and ensure patient care is delivered safely, effectively and equitably.

The advice to practices holding a list number with NHS GG&C that have combined practice inspections carried out is to follow the attached Chief Dental Officer guidance and remain closed at this time other than for telephone triage. Wholly private practices should take advice from Health Improvement Scotland in consideration of moving towards Phase 2 re-opening.

Stay Safe
Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry