

COVID-19

Lee Savarrio - Chief of Dentistry Update (14-08-2020)

I appreciate that this will have been a busy week with many practices preparing for AGPs for NHS patients. We are extremely grateful to colleagues in GDS who are planning to start to see their own emergency AGPs in their practice as we try to scale down activity in our UDCCs.

I know that by now GDS colleagues may be getting 'survey fatigue' and I apologise for issuing a further Webropol survey this week. However I do feel that it is the easiest and quickest way of gathering and being able to analyse a large amount of information quickly as requested by Scottish Government.

So, to remind you there are currently 2 surveys still open and requiring completion, **(Remobilisation of NHS Dental Services: Phase 3 and NHS Aerosol Generating Procedures & Ventilation: Phase 3b)**. For those still to complete these can I stress the importance of their submission as this information is vital for us to be able to plan future PPE requirements (both simple and enhanced PPE required for AGPs).

Failure to return the surveys may result in delayed delivery of PPE.

For those of you who have already submitted the survey and indicated your intention to start NHS AGPs from next week, our teams are working hard to distribute your enhanced PPE and thanks to their efforts deliveries have completed for multiple practices to allow for NHS AGPs to be undertaken in their practices on Monday.

I have also attached the Standard Operating Procedure used by the PDS in the UDCCs and HDS staff in relation to Aerosol Generating Procedures – Process for use of FFP3 Personal Protective Equipment & Treatment Room Decontamination. I thought this may be useful to practices as an example that you may be able to adapt.

As a point of clarification, shoe coverings and head coverings are not required as per the 4 nation's guidance.

Face Fit Testing for NHS AGPs in Dental Practice

Once again many thanks to all in GDS who have responded so quickly to our offer to face fit test GDS teams to enable NHS AGPs to be undertaken for urgent care. The process we have established seems to be working well. We have had a really positive response with around 580 already tested.

We have made 240 additional testing slots available for next week, further sessions will be arranged and I will notify of these in due course.

We are also reviewing options for those who have failed the testing on the current mask.

Current UDCC Activity

We are continuing to have large numbers of referrals into our UDCCs but the majority of these are for AGPs. Hopefully from next week we will see a reduction in these numbers with practices starting to undertake their own AGPs.

The UDCCs will still be accepting 'green' patients for AGPs, however these need to fit the SDCEP Emergency Dental Care criteria, so please ensure you have checked this prior to making the referral. We are now seeing more patients referred for non urgent care; these will be rejected and returned to the referrer where appropriate. The UDCCs are still only there to provide emergency dental care and not courses of routine treatment.

Just a reminder that referrals for urgent care should still be made via the UDCC referral pathway and not via SCI Gateway to expedite swift triage and management for patients.

As detailed in the most recent survey we continue to need your help and support within the UDCCs, particularly from practices who will not be undertaking NHS AGPs as per CDO recent communication.

GG&C Practice Owners

I recently met with representatives of the LDC and practice owners within Greater Glasgow & Clyde. My intention for the meeting was to gain a greater understanding of the issues faced by practices at varying levels of commitment and to hear about any issues that threatened the sustainability of businesses and therefore the provision of patient care.

I wanted to thank those who attended for a very useful discussion. We all took away a number of actions from the meeting, some of which for me were to highlight/clarify points within my Chief of Dentistry updates. I have listed these below:

- **Detail the roles of the Chief of Dentistry and the Dental Practice Advisers**

As Chief of Dentistry I am the single professional source of advice on dental issues for NHSGG&C and the single point of contact on dental matters between the Board, the Chief Dental Officer and the Scottish Government. I am an autonomous voice and advocate for professional dental matters and the champion for implementing the Scottish Oral Health Improvement Plan within and across the NHSGG&C area.

I have a management role in ensuring the effective setting of the clinical and service delivery strategy, timescales and overall performance and ensure that appropriate clinical governance is in place.

Supporting me in my role from a GDS viewpoint we have 2 Dental Practice Advisers in NHSGG&C, (Abdul Haleem and Omar Iqbal) both of whom I think will be very well known to most of you. Their role is to act in a support and advisory capacity to general dental practitioners.

Stay Safe and Look After One Another

They also contribute to and promote the improvement in quality of care throughout general practice and advise the oral health directorate on all matters relating to NHS General Dental Services including its governance as per Board and Scottish Government requirements.

Abdul and Omar are always available by telephone on 0141 201 4210 or by email, Ahaleem@nhs.net, or omarigbal@nhs.net to offer advice and support.

We hope to spotlight these roles in future communications as well as outlining the governance arrangements operating in the Board for GDS for greater clarity and transparency.

I hope you all have a restful weekend.

Kind regards,
Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry