

Dear Colleague

The New Model of Care: Update

Purpose

1. The attached update provides dental teams and dental bodies corporate with information about the progress of NHS dental reform for adult patients in Scotland.

Action

2. NHS Boards are asked to issue the Memorandum to this letter to all dentists and DBCs on their dental lists.

Yours sincerely

Tom Ferris
Chief Dental Officer

30 January 2020

Addresses

For action

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**DENTISTS/DENTAL BODIES CORPORATE
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES**

Development Update: The provision of adult NHS Dental Services under the New Model of Care

Summary

1. The purpose of this note is to provide you with an update on work that is progressing towards a New Model of Oral Health Care for Adult Patients.

Overview

2. The Scottish Government published the Oral Health Improvement Plan in January 2018. This set the strategic vision for the development of oral health services in Scotland for future generations of patients. One of the actions in the Plan was the introduction of an Oral Health Assessment (OHA) with more emphasis on a prevention-based system of oral health care.

3. We had a range of discussions with dentists and members of the dental team throughout Scotland during the consultation phase of OHIP. The profession told us that the existing system was complicated, should better reflect developments in oral health care and allow greater discretion in the treatment of patients.

4. Scottish Government has therefore been working closely with key dental stakeholders, including practising GPs to develop the New Model of Care, which places preventive and self-care as the key focus for NHS services in Scotland. At present this means the policy is developing within a Design Phase, split between two separate Groups:

- Design Group 1: The Oral Health Assessment
- Design Group 2: The Restorative Offer for NHS treatment

5. The Design Phase provides the forum for Scottish Government to consider the options for dental reform informed by professional advice. Scottish Government intends to develop the New Model of Care within the Design Phase over the next 9 months to a year.

The Process

6. The Design Phase has so far focused on Design Group 1 which has developed a framework Oral Health Assessment. This will provide for an overall assessment of oral health, consider risk factors and provide information to discuss with the patient. The OHA supports preventive and self-care to place the patient at the centre of their individual care, supported by current clinical best practice advice.

7. The practitioner / patient discussion will allow the opportunity for the patient to debate with the dental practitioner whether the recommendations provided by the OHA, in particular around the review appointment frequency and treatment options are suitable and to then agree the overall outcome of care needs. The final package of care will include preventive

and self-care advice; the care pathway – what treatment is required, the review appointment frequency – how often the patient should see the dentist.

8. Moving into this year the focus shifts to Design Group 2, which has been asked to explore the requirements needed to provide comprehensive NHS restorative care options for adult patients within an overall policy shift towards preventive and self-care. The intention is the new NHS offer provides clinicians with a better variety of options to care for patient needs.

9. Design Group 2 will develop the extent of the NHS offer for restorative treatment over the course of the first half of 2020. This group has a key focus on practising GPs supporting the development of restorative dentistry within the New Model of Care.

Next Steps

10. Scottish Government will provide bi-monthly PCAs over the course of the year, focusing on various New Model of Care themes.

Scottish Government
Population Health Directorate
January 2020