

Dear Colleague

## GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES

### THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES) (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2010 – INTRODUCTION OF NON-TIME LIMITED REGISTRATION

#### Summary

1. This letter advises NHS Boards and Practitioner Services of changes to the continuing care and capitation period which take effect from 1 April 2010.

#### Background

2. NHS: PCA(D)(2009)2, issued on 20 March 2009, advised of a two step change to continuing care and capitation arrangements with the intention to make registration with a dentist non-time limited from 1 April 2010. To provide for this change in the registration period the NHS (General Dental Services) (Scotland) Regulations 1996 are being amended with effect from 1 April 2010 to remove all references to lapsing of a registration period.

#### Action

3. NHS Boards and Practitioner Services are asked to note the changes to the continuing care and capitation period, which are contained in the Memorandum to this letter.

18 February 2010

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#### Addresses

For action  
Chief Executives,  
NHS Boards

Director,  
Practitioner Services

For information  
Chief Executive,  
NHS National Services Scotland

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#### Enquiries to:

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4. Copies of the NHS (General Dental Services) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2010 will be sent to NHS Boards when available for onward transmission to dentists.

5. NHS Boards are asked to **urgently** copy and distribute the Memorandum to this letter to all dentists on their dental lists.

Yours sincerely

FRANK STRANG  
Deputy Director

**DENTISTS  
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE  
GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES**

**THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES)  
(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2010 –  
INTRODUCTION OF NON-TIME LIMITED REGISTRATION**

1. This Memorandum advises dentists of changes to the continuing care and capitation period which take effect from 1 April 2010.

**Background**

2. The Memorandum to NHS: PCA(D)(2009)2, issued on 20 March 2009, advised of a two step change to continuing care and capitation arrangements with the intention to make registration with a dentist non-time limited from 1 April 2010. To provide for this change in the registration period the NHS (General Dental Services) (Scotland) Regulations 1996 are being amended with effect from 1 April 2010 to remove all references to lapsing of a registration period. This means that from 1 April 2010 **all** existing patients registered with a dentist under a continuing care and capitation arrangement and all new patients registered with a dentist under a continuing care and capitation arrangement will be registered for life (although dentists will continue to be able, if they choose, to take the necessary steps to de-register any patients that they no longer wish to treat under NHS arrangements). Registration arrangements will no longer lapse after a set period. A registration arrangement will, however, come to an end, and continuing care or capitation payments cease, where Practitioner Services have determined that a patient has died, moved out of the country or registered with another dentist in Scotland.

3. A copy of the NHS (General Dental Services) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2010, which bring the change at paragraph 2 above into effect, will be sent once available.

**Reduction in Continuing Care and Capitation Payments**

4. Continuing care and capitation payments will be paid on a monthly basis for all patients registered with a dentist. However, where a patient has not attended the dentist for 3 years or more, and the dentist has not therefore submitted a payment claim form (GP17) to Practitioner Services in respect of that patient, then the continuing care or capitation payment (items 41(a) and 45(a) and (b) of Determination I to the Statement of Dental Remuneration) will reduce to 20% of the relevant fee. Any payment due under item 41(b), (c) and (e) and 45(c) and (d) of Determination I will also be reduced to 20% of the relevant fee for any patient where a GP17 has not been submitted for 3 years or more. Payments will return to the full amount when a GP17 is subsequently submitted by the dentist, or another dentist acting on his/her behalf, for any patient in respect of whom payments have reduced to 20%.

5. Where a child attends for treatment throughout a 3 year period and all the care and treatment which the child has received has been under the basic capitation fee (item 41(a)) the dentist may not submit a GP17 for that child, as he/she is not claiming an additional item of service fee for any treatment undertaken and under non-time limited registration will not require to submit a GP17 to ensure that an arrangement is rolled-on. However, if no GP17 is submitted for a child patient at least once in every 3 year period the capitation fee for that patient will reduce to 20%. Dentists should therefore ensure that in such cases a GP17 is completed at least once in a 3 year period when the child attends the dentist for treatment. The GP17 should be completed by the dentist and the child's parent, carer or guardian as if it was a registration claim, unless treatment is being provided for which an additional item of service fee can be claimed, and submitted to Practitioner Services.

6. The first reduction in payments to 20% of the relevant fee will be for those patients where no GP17 has been submitted by a dentist, or another dentist acting on his/her behalf, in the 3 years prior to 1 April 2010.

### **Notification of Impending Reduction in Continuing Care and Capitation Payments**

7. Practitioner Services will provide dentists with 12 months advance notification of the names of those patients whose continuing care and capitation payments will reduce to 20% of the relevant fee and will continue to provide monthly notification of relevant names until payments reduce to 20%.

8. The first such 12 month notification will be received in the March 2010 schedule paid in April for those patients where no GP17 has been submitted in the 2 years prior to 1 April 2010, ie for patients where payments will reduce to 20% from 1 April 2011 unless a GP17 is received before that date.

9. One-off notification will be provided by no later than the week commencing 8 March of all those patients where payments will drop to 20% between April and June 2010 unless a GP17 is received.

10. Practitioner Services will also advise dentists of the names and dates of birth of patients where payments have reduced to 20% in the month in which the reduction in payment happens, eg if the date the patient is due to move to reduced payment is 20 April notification of this will appear in the April paid May 2010 schedule.

### **Patient Information**

11. The patient information leaflet "Registering with a dentist for NHS treatment" is currently being revised and expanded and will include information on patient responsibilities. Supplies of the leaflet will be issued when available.

## **Enquiries**

12. Any enquiries arising from this Memorandum should be taken up with your NHS Boards.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT HEALTH DIRECTORATES  
18 February 2010