

Dear Colleague

STRATEGIC VISION FOR E-DENTISTRY

Summary

1. The memorandum to this letter advises dentists and dental bodies corporate (DBC's) of the Scottish Government's Vision for e-Dentistry.

Programme for Government

2. The Scottish Government recently announced their Programme for Government 2015-16. As part of a number of measures for NHS dental services, the Programme provides for "an eDental programme that will improve the assurance, governance, efficiency and information on quality of services".

3. The Scottish Government's Vision for e-Dentistry sets out an ambitious programme of future work, grouped into three main phases of development. The intention is that phase 1 will be completed by the end of 2018, and will mainly focus on 'business efficiency' measures.

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Replacement Programme

4. Practitioner Services are currently taking forward a major piece of work in replacing EDI, which is a major component in the payment system for independent dentists, with more up-to-date supportable technology.

22 Oct 2015

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

Director, Practitioner Services

For information

Chief Executive,
NHS National Services Scotland

Chief Executive,
NHS Education for Scotland

Dental Lead Officers
ehealth Leads

Enquiries to:

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As well as improvements for practices with Practice Management Systems, the project will also enable paper-based practices to submit electronically via a web-based tool.

5. We also anticipate that prior approval requests will be made electronic (with return prior approval response messages that can be retrieved by the PMS). The new system will also enable dental practices to use the patient's Community Health Index (CHI) number.

Business Efficiency Measures

6. Phase 1 of the Vision for e-Dentistry encompasses the following complimentary 'business efficiency' measures that are timed to coincide with the EDI replacement project:

- All NHS communication to and from the practice by NHS email;
- Clarity over end date for paper GP17 forms;
- Agreed standards for sending digital images;
- Changes to the GDS Regulations to allow for e-signatures.

We are currently engaging with software suppliers about the precise mechanics and timings of these initiatives. However we have targeted the following dates:

- E-Signatures will be allowed from 1 April 2016;
- All communication between NHS Boards and dentists will be via NHS email and all referrals from dentists will be via SCI gateway from 1 April 2017;
- All claims for payment and prior approval must be electronic, by practice management software, or web-based GP17, by 1 January 2018.

Phases 2 and 3

7. The Vision Document also sets out a range of other initiatives across the headings of 'clinical support', 'improvement support', 'patient empowerment', 'information sharing', 'mobile working', and 'data to support planning'. Please refer to the full document for further information on these measures.

Funding to Dentists/Dental Practices

8. The CDO announced in 2014 non-recurring funding to help practices support some of these developments. We will write to practices in due course with the amount of funding available and what we expect the funding to be used for. It is likely that we will request NHS Boards to collate self-declarations from practices that this funding has been used to enhance IT provision in the practice.

Action

9. NHS Boards are also asked to **detach** and issue the Memorandum to this letter to all dentists and dental bodies corporate on their dental lists.

Yours sincerely

Margie Taylor

MARGIE TAYLOR
Chief Dental Officer

STRATEGIC VISION FOR E-DENTISTRY

1. This memorandum shares a copy of the Scottish Government's Strategic Vision for e-Dentistry.
2. **This is an important document and should be read by all dental contractors. Practices that rely solely on paper-based systems should pay particular attention to the highlights as described below.**

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<http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/details.asp?PublicationID=5686>

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Enquiries

9. Any enquiries arising from this Memorandum should be taken up with your NHS Board.

Scottish Government Health and Social Care
22 Oct 2015