



Dear Colleague

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES – FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR GENERAL DENTAL PRACTITIONERS

Summary

1. The Memorandum to this letter advises dentists and dental bodies corporate (DBC's) of new arrangements for quality improvement activities undertaken by dentists for the forthcoming 3-year cycle 2019/22.

Action

2. NHS Boards are asked to:

2.1 note the information contained in the Memorandum to this letter; and

2.2 issue the Memorandum to this letter to all dentists and DBCs on their dental lists.

Yours sincerely,

TOM FERRIS
Chief Dental Officer (Interim)

5 July 2019

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

Director, Practitioner Services

For information

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

**QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES – FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR GENERAL
DENTAL PRACTITIONERS**

Summary

1. This Memorandum advises of new arrangements for quality improvement (QI) activities undertaken by dentists for the forthcoming 3-year cycle 2019/22.
2. Dentists are required to undertake quality improvement activities as a terms of service requirement, as described in paragraph 40 of Schedule 1 to the NHS (General Dental Services) Scotland Regulations 2010. In October 2017 clinical audit activity was extended to include a wider range of quality improvement activities.

Background

3. The 2019/22 cycle will provide opportunities for dentists to engage in a series of national activities in each of the three years of the cycle. The theme of the cycle will be 'Building a Quality Improvement Culture'.
4. Year one (2019/20) will comprise a Safety Climate Survey (SCS) at dental practice team level. The activities for year two (2020/21) and three (2021/22) will be released in due course.
5. This SCS is a partnership between Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) and NHS Education for Scotland (NES); and is supported by BDA Scottish Dental Practice Committee and Scottish Public Dental Service Committee.
6. Each member of practice staff would undertake a short online survey in relation to the 'safety climate' within the practice. A practice report will be generated and it should be the focus of reflection at a practice team meeting. The practice should use the findings within their SCS report to develop an Action Plan which it will use to implement improvements. The full Action Plan remains with and belongs to the practice. The practice will be required to consider three areas where it has performed well and three areas where there could be improvement and upload these to the NES Portal. This evidences completion and will trigger the addition of QI hours and for the necessary QI payments to dentists to be made.
7. There are also four entry level QI modules which we would expect all team members to undertake. As this activity is a component of the QI activity the CPD hours certificate, but not payment, will be made available. The modules will be available through NES on TURAS Learn.
8. This is an advance notification of our plans and more detailed information will be made available shortly via HIS, NES, NHS Boards and the scottishdental.org website.
9. Information will be sent to practices via the practice email account and someone within the practice team should look out for messages.

Current Cycle of Activity (2016/19)

10. The current cycle of activity is due to complete on 31 July 2019. Arrangements for this cycle remain unchanged and dentists must comply with their terms of service requirement. NHS Boards will monitor compliance and agree appropriate action plans with dentists who have been unable to achieve compliance.

Future QI Cycles (2022/25)

11. We will be working with partners in HIS, NES, NHS Boards and the BDA in redesigning the QI landscape for Primary Care Dentistry. The focus will be on the administrative workload for dentists as well as ensuring that future activities are mutually beneficial and lead to improvements for patients, dentists and their teams.

12. This is an exciting QI redesign journey. The end result should be a system that you will learn from, enjoy participating and it will be easy to navigate through. Perhaps most importantly, it should improve your practice and inform the future arrangements for QI in primary care dental practice.

Enquiries

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

Scottish Government Population Health Directorate
5 July 2019