

Ventilation Improvement Allowance FAQ

1. *Should the calculation of time spent on NHS work compared to private work be based on a specific timeframe?*

It should be based on the average time currently being spent on NHS work compared to private work in a typical week across all the practitioners in the practice. Historical data (e.g. NHS/private percentage split for GP234) should not be used for this calculation.

2. *How should a practice calculate commitment for a dentist who has only been at the practice for a short period – including where one dentist has left and another started?*

As the calculation is based on the average time currently being spent on NHS work compared to private work then as long as the dentist has been at the practice for a few weeks, they should know what their typical week looks like and can make the calculation accordingly.

3. *How do I make the actual calculation of my entitlement?*

If your NHS Board has given you an application form which automatically calculates your entitlement then you will be able to see the amount of allowance you are eligible for on completion of the form.

If your Board has a different application process then the value of your allowance entitlement will be calculated by the Board.

4. *Is there official guidance on what equipment is acceptable?*

As stated in PCA(D)(2021)3, funding will be provided for air extraction equipment which allows for a minimum of 10 air changes per hour. Air scrubbers and similar equipment that conditions/recycles the air within a space can only be claimed where the practice is unable to fit air extraction equipment.

Further information on ventilation in a dental setting can be found in the Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme (SDCEP) document: [Mitigation of Aerosol Generating Procedures in Dentistry Review](#) and in the [Infection, Prevention and Control \(IPC\) guidance](#).

5. *Can you recommend any equipment or specialist companies?*

No, we are unable to recommend specific equipment or specialist companies.

6. *Can I claim for air scrubbers or air purifiers?*

Air scrubbers or equipment which conditions/recycles the air within a space will not be allowed, unless a practice is physically unable to fit extraction equipment.

7. It will be expensive to fit air extraction equipment to my practice, can I claim for air scrubbers instead?

No. A practice can claim for equipment that conditions or recycles the air within a space only where it is not possible to install air extraction equipment.

8. I am physically unable to have air extraction equipment fitted in my practice and want to claim for air scrubbers – what should I do?

You should contact your NHS Board to discuss your circumstances before purchasing equipment or submitting an application. Claims for air scrubbers and similar equipment that conditions or recycles the air within a space can only be claimed where the practice is unable to fit air extraction equipment.

9. What are air changes per hour?

Air changes per hour (ACH) is the number of times each hour the total volume of air in the room is able to be replenished by fresh air from outside the room.

10. How do I calculate the number of air changes per hour?

It can be calculated by measuring the air volume that is added to (or removed from) a room divided by the total volume of the room. Commercial sellers will often advise on this.

11. Does the number of air changes per hour need to be verified by my NHS Board?

No, practices owners should be satisfied that the equipment purchased meets the 10 air changes per hour requirement or its equivalent when making the appropriate declaration on the application form.

12. Does a practice need to provide independent confirmation of the number of air changes per hour of the ventilation equipment?

It is the responsibility of the dental practice to ensure that the equipment meets the required specification and they will be required to confirm this on the application form.

If a practice chooses to have an external contractor validate their equipment the cost of this cannot be claimed.

13. When can I submit an application?

Applications can be made to your NHS Board until 31 March 2022.

14. Can I make a claim for equipment I have previously purchased?

You may claim for air extraction equipment purchased on or after 1 April 2020, provided it meets the required standard.

15. Can I make a claim for air scrubbers or similar that I previously purchased before the allowance was introduced?

No, air scrubbers and similar equipment do not meet the standard required to be eligible. The only exception is if it is not possible to fit extraction equipment in your premises. In this case you should contact your NHS Board to discuss before submitting an application.

16. Can I claim for a ventilation survey only?

No, only claims for equipment can be made as outlined in PCA(D)(2021)3.

17. Can I make a claim for the cost of installing the equipment?

Provided that the equipment meets the required standards then installation costs can be included in the claim. Receipts for installation must be included with the application.

18. Can I make a claim for funding to reconfigure a treatment room to maximise the air changes per hour (e.g. lower a ceiling to reduce volume)?

No, funding is only available for the renewal, purchase or upgrade of ventilation equipment.

19. If a dentist leaves my practice before the three year commitment to provide NHS GDS ends will I need to repay the allowance?

As long as all the contractors within the practice continue to provide NHS GDS for the required period, then the allowance will not have to be repaid.

If any of the dentists choose to stop providing NHS GDS then the allowance will need to be repaid on the basis outlined in PCA(D)(2021)3.

20. A dentist in my practice doesn't want to commit to working in GDS for 3 years can I still apply for funding for the other surgeries in my practice?

No. Health Boards are only permitted to consider applications which are made by an authorised representative on behalf of all contractors within a practice.

21. If I no longer want to provide NHS GDS will I need to repay the allowance?

If a practice does not continue to meet the conditions of entitlement as outlined in PCA(D)(2021)3 then they will be required to pay back one thirty-sixth of the allowance for every month of the three year period during which they have not met the conditions.