

DENTISTS/DENTAL BODIES CORPORATE
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES

- i. FUNDING SUPPORT FOR VENTILATION AND ELECTRIC SPEED ADJUSTING HAND PIECES/OTHER EQUIPMENT; NOTIFICATIONS OF INTEREST
- ii. ONE-OFF SUSTAINABILITY PAYMENT

- i. FUNDING SUPPORT FOR VENTILATION AND ELECTRIC SPEED ADJUSTING HAND PIECES/OTHER EQUIPMENT; NOTIFICATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Scottish Government has provided £5m of funding for ventilation improvements and £7.5m for the purchase of new speed adjusting hand pieces to support NHS dental services recovery during the pandemic. The arrangements for applying for this funding may be found PCA(D)(2021)(3) and PCA(D)(2021)(6) respectively.

2. All dental practices are strongly encouraged to investigate dental surgery ventilation and the modifications that may be necessary to meet the requirements of current UK healthcare guidance and legislation. Further information on requirements can be found at: <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/publications/ventilation-for-healthcare-premises-shtm-03-01/>.

3. NHS Practices should be aware that funding is still available to 30 June 2022 under these schemes. **Practices are now advised to make a notification of interest to their Board before 31 March 2022.**

Other Equipment

4. We are now taking the opportunity to allow this funding to be used for a range of equipment. There has been an increased burden of additional cleaning of dental equipment and challenges in ongoing maintenance due to reduced staffing levels experienced by some dental equipment maintenance providers. It is acknowledged that this may have shortened the effective and safe service life of critical dental equipment. The following is an illustrative list of those items that may be included but is not exhaustive:

- Dental Chair
- Dental Operating Light
- Cuspidor/Spittoon
- Dental Suction
- Dental Compressor
- Dental Xray Unit

5. All practices, irrespective of previous ventilation and electric speed adjusting hand piece funding, can apply for funding for other equipment. Notifications of interest should describe your intentions at this stage and do not need to include quotes. The arrangements of the scheme will be the same as for ventilation and electric speed adjusting hand pieces, and will be described in due course.

ii. ONE-OFF SUSTAINABILITY PAYMENT

6. The Scottish Government is allocating a further £5 million through a one-off revenue payment to qualifying NHS practices. This funding is being provided to meet the costs of a Legionella Risk Assessment (LRA), for additional hygienist and nurse sessions, and extra out of hours provision. While NHS practices will have the discretion to manage their funding across each of these areas, practices that have presently not carried out a Legionella Risk Assessment should prioritise this.

7. The £5m one-off sustainability NHS payment is being offered to NHS practices to provide an additional financial support as the sector moves out from the financial support “top-up” emergency payment regime from 1 April 2022. The payment to each NHS dental practice will be calculated as the percentage share of the practice’s 2019/20 (baseline) GDPA of the total value of the 2019/20 (baseline) GDPA made to all practices in Scotland. This percentage share will then be applied to £5m to calculate the payment to each individual NHS practice.

8. The payment will apply to all existing NHS practices, with a 2019/20 baseline and currently in receipt of GDPA, and have an average of at least 500 patients per dentist as at 28 February 2022.

New Practices

9. New NHS practices that do not have a 2019/20 baseline position or in receipt of financial support will be included in this payment, providing they have at present a minimum of 500 NHS patients per dentist. The calculation for new NHS practices will be based on those payments made to existing practices with a 2019/20 baseline using their GDPA protection payment with similarly-sized NHS patient lists.

Orthodontic-only Practices

10. Orthodontic-only practices that are currently in receipt of GDPA will also be included in this payment.

Payment Arrangements for the One-Off Sustainability Payment

11. This will be paid automatically to practices in the March-paid April 2022 payment schedule.

Opting-Out of the One-Off Sustainability Payment

12. **Practices may also opt-out from this funding through emailing: nss.psd-dental-payments-covid19@nhs.scot with the subject header ‘OPT OUT’ by 31 March 2022.**

13. Practices should keep appropriate records and/or receipts, as Health Boards will be asked to undertake random sampling on associated spend with this funding for quality and monitoring purposes.

Enquiries

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

Primary Care Directorate
7 March 2022