

DENTISTS/DENTAL BODIES CORPORATE
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES

AMENDMENT NO. 157 TO THE STATEMENT OF DENTAL REMUNERATION

- i. REMOVAL OF PROTECTED PAYMENTS FOR COMMITMENT PAYMENTS (DET IX, GENERAL DENTAL PRACTICE ALLOWANCE (DET XIV) AND RENT REIMBURSEMENT PAYMENTS (DET XV) / NEW ENTRANTS AND APPLICATIONS FOR RENT REIMBURSEMENT
- ii. CHILDSMILE TOOTHBRUSHING INSTRUCTION

- i. REMOVAL OF PROTECTED PAYMENTS FOR COMMITMENT PAYMENTS (DET IX, GENERAL DENTAL PRACTICE ALLOWANCE (DET XIV) AND RENT REIMBURSEMENT PAYMENTS (DET XV) / NEW ENTRANTS AND APPLICATIONS FOR RENT REIMBURSEMENT

Background

1. During the period of emergency financial support, personal commitment payments, General Dental Practice Allowance and rent reimbursement payments have been protected, as described in PCA(D)(2020)(7). NHS dental contractors and practices have continued to receive protected payments based on their historical position as at 31 March 2020. The intention is to remove this protection from 1 July 2022.
2. However, the metrics used to calculate these payments are now less relevant and can no longer be used to calculate appropriate payments. Therefore, in order to re-animate these payments, we have had to make a number of changes to the Statement of Dental Remuneration (SDR). The full Amendment No. 157 will be available to view or download at <http://www.scottishdental.org/>.
3. These changes do not comprise a review of the allowances but rather are only being put in place to make these allowances workable within the current system with the range of data that is presently available.
4. The changes will be effective from 1 July 2022, and are summarised as follows:

Determination IX – Commitment Payments

5. The 'relevant earnings period' for this payment has been changed from 12 months to 3 months, to reflect the most current earnings for practices. Using a 3 month period to calculate earnings will allow contractors to receive a commitment payment based on their most recent earnings under the multiplier arrangement and will reflect the growing increase in activity in most practices. Retaining a 12 month period would have resulted in most practitioners receiving a lower payment as Covid support payments would not be included in the calculation of gross earnings.

6. Subsequently, the table detailing the gross earnings required for each of the 10 payment levels has been updated from an annual amount to a quarterly amount. This means that dentists must have gross NHS earnings of at least £7,013 per quarter in order to qualify for a payment.

Determination XIV – Practice Allowances, General Dental Practice Allowance (GDPA)

7. Under the existing arrangements practices were entitled to a GDPA payment of: 12% ('fully' NHS committed), 9% ('partially NHS committed) or 6% (non-NHS committed) of gross earnings (as defined in Determination XIV). Practices have continued to receive a payment throughout the pandemic based on their protected NHS commitment status as at 31 March 2020.

8. If we were to re-start this allowance as it stands, many practices would receive a lower value of payment than they have been receiving up to now. Therefore, we have removed the definitions of 'fully' and 'partially committed NHS practice' for the purpose of calculating this payment. Instead, all eligible practices, including those who were not previously in receipt of this payment, will receive a payment of 12% of gross earnings (as defined in Determination XIV), up to a maximum of £22,000 per quarter.

9. In addition to this change, a new condition of eligibility is that practices must not have less than 80% of the accumulated number of NHS patient registrations across all contractors, as at 1 July 2022. For example, if there are three contractors with 6,000 NHS patients registered across the practice on 1 July 2022. In order to continue to be eligible for GDPA payments, the practice must maintain a minimum of 4,800 NHS patients, this can be distributed across the three contractors as they see fit, but cumulatively must equate to a minimum of 4,800 patients.

Determination XV – Reimbursement of Practice Expenses – Rent Reimbursement

10. Rent payments have continued to be paid to those practices who were in receipt of this payment as at 31 March 2020 but there has been no mechanism to allow new entrants throughout this period.

11. Practices that were in receipt of these payments will continue to receive them provided they continue to meet the conditions of entitlement as set out in Amendment No. 157 to the SDR. Where a practice, that was in receipt of these payments as at 31 March 2020, moves premises or requests a re-valuation, they will have to meet the same requirements as new entrants to the scheme, as described below.

12. In order to allow new entrants to the scheme we have removed the definitions of 'fully' and 'partially NHS committed'. Instead, new entrants will have to have a minimum average of 500 patients per dentist in the practice (or a minimum of 500 claims per dentist, per annum, under item 46 of Determination I for specialist orthodontic practices), and have a minimum of 60% NHS activity, as shown on a GP234 declaration.

13. Practices, that were not in receipt of these payment as at 31 March 2020, and do not yet have the relevant accounts data to prove that they have at least 60% NHS activity may still apply for rent reimbursement, as long as they meet the other conditions of entitlement. These practices will be subject to a payment verification exercise after 12 months to ensure that they have met the required level of NHS activity.

Seniority Payments

14. No changes to this scheme have been made but Determination III has been simplified.

Multiplier Payment

15. Any future multiplier payments will be included for the purposes of calculating gross earnings in relation to seniority payments, personal commitment payments, and GDPA payments.

iii. CHILDSMILE TOOTHBRUSHING INSTRUCTION

16. As part of a claim for Determination I, item 42 (Childsmile), dental teams are ordinarily required to provide toothbrushing instruction, including supervising the patient or carer whilst they brush the patient's teeth. The ability of dental teams to supervise toothbrushing for children over the age of 6 has been affected by the availability of appropriate toothbrushes, therefore a change to the SDR has been made to reflect this.

17. For patients aged 0-5, supervision of the patient or carer brushing the patient's teeth should continue. For patients aged 6-17 there is no longer a requirement to supervise toothbrushing but advice on technique should still be provided for these patients.

18. This change will be effective from 1 April 2022.

Enquiries

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

Primary Care Directorate
9 May 2022