

E: NHSdentistry@gov.scot

24 November 2023

Dear Colleague,

Quality Improvement Activity – 2022-25 Cycle

My purpose in writing is to update you on the plans for the current Quality Improvement (QI) cycle which began on 1st August 2022 and is due to conclude on 31st July 2025.

As you are no doubt aware all traditional QI activity was suspended for the 2019-22 cycle. Most contractors were deemed to have satisfied their QI requirement for that cycle through their engagement with activities required in the implementation of the safe methods of work necessary after the period of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I understand that many of you are concerned that the current cycle has been ongoing for several months with no indication of how your commitment will be met. I would like to set out my intention for this cycle and give you some reassurance as to how this will be managed.

It is my intention that compliance with the QI requirements will be achieved through the completion of three different elements as follows:-

1. Submission of a team-based reflective report for the practice that will allow NHS Boards and Scottish Government intelligence of how the new Determination I and payment reform is working in the practice. The report will allow teams to reflect on how implementation is progressing and facilitate the development of an action plan with the aim of improving the oral health of patients and the quality of care provided to patients during the ongoing implementation phase. A pro forma is being worked on presently and will be sent to practices early in 2024. The intention is to allow practices sufficient time for proper reflection after the first few months of using the new Determination I.
2. Undertake for each dentist an online training module through Turas aimed at improving the awareness of the dental team of issues around Equality and Diversity. The date for the release of the module will be confirmed shortly.
3. Completion of a practice-level workforce census to enable the Scottish Government and NHS boards to better understand the current workforce with a view to informing workforce planning. This is provisionally timed for the early part of 2024.

On completion of all of these three elements, all dentists in the practice will be considered to have satisfied their QI commitment for the 2022-25 cycle and will be eligible to make the appropriate claim under Determination XI of the Statement of Dental Remuneration (no other QI activity will be necessary or considered for this cycle).

Work is progressing in preparation for the roll out of these activities and will be supported by NES. I will write to you once again with a further update in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Ferris
Chief Dental Officer