

E: NHSdentistry@gov.scot

9 February 2026

Dear Colleague,

I want to provide clarification on practice opening hours and the requirement to provide emergency and urgent care following the publication of PCA(D)(2026)1. We have had some queries suggesting that the PCA has been read to mean that practices need to be open during 'in-hours' (8am – 6pm, Monday – Friday).

These hours were referenced in the emergency cover section of the PCA and only apply to ensuring that you have arrangements in place for emergency care for registered patients. It was not an indication or introduction of "core hours" that practices require to be open and patient facing. Practices should have well established arrangements to ensure that patients may access urgent care and treatment during these times before any local out of hours service cover commences.

Terms of service as set out in PCA(D)(2026)1 have been in force since the 2010 Regulations.

I trust that this is helpful clarification.

Yours sincerely,



Gillian Leslie
Chief Dental Officer