



Dear Colleague

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT CYCLE 2025-28

Summary

1. To advise dentists of the Quality Improvement (QI) project to be undertaken in the second year (2026/27) of the current three year QI cycle.

Background

2. The NHS (General Dental Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2010 require that a dentist included on either part of an NHS Board dental list must undertake at least 15 hours of QI activity within a 3-year cycle.
3. QI activity must be approved by the Health Board or Public Services Delivery Scotland (PSDS) as required.
4. The 2025-28 QI cycle requires completion of one single national project for each cycle year beginning on 1 August to be submitted as completed no later than 31 July of the subsequent calendar year.

31 July 2026

Addresses

For action
Chief Executives, NHS Boards

Directors of Dentistry

For information
Chief Executive,
PSD Scotland

Enquiries to:

Dentistry, Optometry and
Community Audiology Division
1st Floor East Rear
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

NHSDentistry@gov.scot

QI Project (2026/27)

5. The theme of the project for the second cycle year commencing 1 August 2026 is 'Anti-Microbial Stewardship'. This project will comprise of a series of short online learning modules and a practice team based reflective activity. A Turas Learn website has been created by PSD Scotland to support dental teams in carrying out this QI activity and enable dentists to fulfil their QI requirements.
6. The aim of this QI activity is to align with the UK wide action plan 'Confronting anti-microbial resistance 2024 to 2029'. The action plan details a range of actions to be taken by governments, professionals and the public in reducing the harms associated with antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The QI project aligns with Theme 2, Outcome 5 AMR Workforce – this aims to raise awareness in human health, animal health and agriculture to improve the optimal use of antimicrobials. This will help to embed best practice in antimicrobial stewardship across dental teams.
7. The project will comprise five short learning modules that aim to inform and support members of the dental team, covering a range of themes including the risks associated with poor antimicrobial stewardship, and appropriate use of antimicrobials and techniques to reduce the requirement for antimicrobial usage. The learning is appropriate for all members of the dental team and all dental settings regardless of scope of practice and speciality. On completion of the modules, 1.5 hours of verifiable CPD will be awarded to GDC registered participants.
8. Following completion of the online learning modules by dental team members the practice should undertake a practice-based reflective activity to discuss learning within the team and identify barriers to best practice antimicrobial stewardship. A Practice Action Plan and Practice Antimicrobial Protocol should be agreed to ensure good antimicrobial stewardship. An 'Action Plan Template' and 'Antimicrobial Practice Prescribing Protocol' document, along with guidance, is available on the TURAS Learn website.
9. This QI project will award 5 hours of Quality Improvement activity and QI Allowance on completion of the learning modules and practice based reflective activity. CPDA will not be awarded for the online learning module. All information relevant to this project, including detail on how to make a claim for QI Allowance can be found at the following web page <https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/90764> . The learning programme will be available from 1 August 2026.
10. Details regarding the project to be completed in the QI cycle year 2027-28 will be provided in due course.

Exceptions

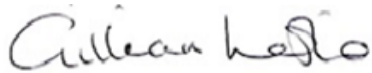
11. Where a dentist joins a Dental List in Scotland for the first time after 1 August in any relevant cycle year participation in the project for that year is optional. However, they will require to complete a QI project for each of the remaining full cycle years, e.g. if a dentist joins a Dental List in Scotland for the first time on 2 August 2026 participation in that cycle year project is optional however they will require to complete a project for the final cycle year.
12. If a dentist joins a Dental List for the first time in Scotland after 1 August 2027 they are not required to participate in the QI activity for this cycle.

13. If a dentist has a period of leave e.g. maternity, paternity, adoptive leave or certified sick leave, participation in QI activity and the number of hours required should be proportionate to the relevant period that remains in the three year cycle as agreed with the NHS Board.

Action

14. NHS Boards are asked to issue this PCA to all dentists on their dental list.

Yours sincerely,



GILLIAN LESLIE
Chief Dental Officer