



Dear Colleague

Amendment No. 170 to the Statement of Dental Remuneration

Summary

1. This circular advises of Amendment No. 170 to the Statement of Dental Remuneration (SDR), which provides for:
 - a new scale of fees for Determination I, effective from 1 December 2026;
 - an update to Determination I – increased prior approval limit, effective from 1 December 2026;
 - an update to Determination IX – Commitment Payments, effective from 1 January 2027;
 - an update to Determination XIV – Practice Allowances, effective from 1 January 2027.
2. Amendment No. 170 to the SDR can be viewed in full at: [Statement of Dental Remuneration – Scottish Dental](#).

Amendments to Determination I – Pay Award

3. The Scottish Government has accepted the pay bodies' (DDRB) recommendation of a 3.75% increase on the pay element for general dental practitioners (GDPs). As in previous years, the increase on pay will apply to gross item of service fees (general and orthodontic fees) and capitation payments. The pay award will be implemented from 1 December 2026 and backdated to 1 April 2026.

12 October 2026

Addresses

For action
Chief Executives, NHS Boards

Directors of Dentistry

For information
Chief Executive,
Public Services Delivery Scotland

Dentists/Dental Bodies Corporate

Policy Enquiries to:

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

NHSDentistry@gov.scot

4. The pay award will be included in the November paid December 2026 schedule for claims with an acceptance date on or after 1 December 2026.
5. Backdated payments will be included in the January paid February 2027 payment schedule for claims with an acceptance date from 1 April 2026 to 30 November 2026.

Amendments to Determination I – Prior Approval

6. The prior approval limit for orthodontic treatment will be increased from £660 to £685. The new prior approval limit will apply to courses of treatment with an acceptance date on, or after, 1 December 2026.

Amendments to Determination IX – Commitment Payments

7. Commitment payments are directly linked to gross fees, and in order to maintain parity in real terms, thresholds for commitment payments are increased in line with the fee awards on an annual basis. Therefore, we have increased the commitment payment thresholds by 3.75%.
8. This will be effective from 1 January 2027. The first payment schedule affected by this change will be the March paid April 2027 payment schedule.

Amendments to Determination XIV – Practice Allowances, Part I – General Dental Practice Allowance

9. The amount of General Dental Practice Allowance which can be paid to practices has been increased by 3.75%, to a maximum of £23,738 per quarter.
10. This change will be effective from 1 January 2027. The first payment schedule affected by this change will be the March paid April 2027 payment schedule.

Actions

NHS Boards

11. NHS Boards are asked to ensure that they issue this circular to all dentists and dental bodies corporate on their dental list.

PSD Scotland

12. PSD Scotland are asked to put in place the necessary arrangements to meet the requirements set out in this circular.

Enquiries

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

Yours sincerely,



Gillian Leslie
Chief Dental Officer