Dear Colleague

RE: Avoidance of Doubt - Application of Fluoride Varnish by Dental Nurses

Please find below details of this avoidance of doubt notification. It is with regard to the application of Fluoride Varnish (FV) by Dental Nurses (DN) in either a clinical setting (treatment service premises) or in a community setting (for example in a children’s centre or nursery):

Clinical Practice Setting

- In line with the General Dental Council (GDC) scope of practice and Primary Care Commissioning guidelines - DN who have received appropriate training and who are competent to carry out the procedure may apply a licensed FV, to a named patient, at the direction of the prescribing dentist under Patient Specific Directions (PSD).
- DN applying FV must record in the patient notes that FV has been applied and that post-operative instructions were given. Any relevant aberrations from the normal protocol for applying the FV should be recorded. The entry should be dated and signed.

Community Based Settings

- It is a GDC requirement that community based programmes have clear written protocols and are overseen by a consultant or registered specialist in dental public health.
- When prescribed within the programme protocol a suitably trained and competent DN may apply FV to patients who have been named by the community programme’s supervising practitioner(s).
- It is recommended that individual patient details and consent are recorded by the supervising practitioner in the Programme’s Patient Specific Directions.
- A Patient Group Direction (PGD) is not required for application of FV by dental therapists, dental hygienists or suitably trained and accredited DNs working in a

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High quality care for all, now and for future generations
community setting delivering to a programme protocol overseen by a consultant or registered specialist in dental public health.

In all cases the prescribing dental practitioner remains responsible for the supply of the licensed FV and must be assured that the DN applying the FV has received appropriate training and is accredited to apply FV.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

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