

To: All NHS primary care dental contract holders

NHS England
Wellington House
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Dear colleagues

NHS Dental contractual delivery arrangements for Q2 – 2022/2023

Restoration of dental services to pre-pandemic levels

Thank you for the effort you and your teams have put in over the past few months to support NHS patients. This letter outlines arrangements for the remainder of 2022/23 following the archiving of the UKHSA guidance on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) for seasonal respiratory infections for winter 2021-22 and the accompanying dental appendix.

The recently published [NHS England Infection Prevention and Control Manual](#) and the accompanying [dental framework](#) provides practices with the principles to use to deliver care and represents the next steps in healthcare's continuing transition back to pre-pandemic IPC measures. These were described in more detail in our [latest dental and oral health update](#).

Given this easing of IPC restrictions this letter is to confirm that we will be returning to usual contracting arrangements from Q2 2022/23 onwards, as indicated in our letter of [5th April 2022](#). Orthodontic services have been working to usual contracting arrangements since 1 April 2022 and this will continue.

The full year income protection set at 90% of contracted activity for practices exiting the prototype programme will continue, as previously communicated.

In line with this return to usual contracting arrangements, activity delivered by Dental Foundation Trainees will no longer be accrued as practice activity as of 1st July 2022.

Moving forward on contract reform

Since we were asked by the Government to take the lead on dental system reform just over a year ago, we have held 10 focus groups with dental contract holders, associate

dentists, dental nurses, therapists, hygienists and other practice staff, as well as begun the first formal discussions with the British Dental Association in 15 years. During this process of listening to patients and the profession we have heard about the challenges of the current contract and the need for reform. Contract reform is complex and requires careful consideration of step-wise incremental change to be successful and long-lasting. We hope to make an announcement soon on an initial package of changes.

In preparation for the next phase of contract reform discussions we will undertake further focus groups with patients and the profession and would like to talk to as many of you as possible during these engagement sessions. We will share details of how to get involved shortly.

Our vision and aim remain the same to improve the care of patients and the provision of dental services to as many people as possible, including those from key priority groups such as children, as normal contracting arrangements resume.

We look forward to continuing to work with you.

Yours sincerely



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