

To: All NI GDPs

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Dear Colleague

Since my letter to you of 7 July in which I set out the Board's intention to reduce service provision at the Urgent Dental Care Centres, it has become clear that we cannot be confident that there will be sufficient AGPs taking place in the GDS from 20 July, the beginning of phase 3 of the recovery plan. For that reason it has been decided to continue with 7 days per week UDC operation until, if necessary, the end of August.

I am extremely grateful to all the staff in the five Trusts, Dalriada Urgent Care and HSCB who have altered their own personal plans to allow this to happen. I am also extremely grateful to the GDPs who will staff the UDC slots. I realise that many of you have been doing this since the end of March and that you had hoped to devote your full energies to your practices.

The Board is continuing with efforts to fit test more GDPs for the UDC rotas so that the burden on individual GDPs may be lessened. I would encourage those of you who have not yet come forward for UDC work / fit testing to do so.

In a separate development, I will be writing to you later today providing details of a fit testing reimbursement scheme that the Board is setting up. It is hoped that this will help get more dental staff fit tested and reduce a key constraint to providing AGPs in the GDS.

Yours sincerely



Michael Donaldson
Head of Dental Services, HSCB