



HSCB, Northern Office
Integrated Care Directorate
Dental Department
County Hall
182 Galgorm Road
Ballymena
BT42 1QB

*** IMPORTANT INFORMATION ***

To: All NI General Dental Practitioners

Tel : 028 2531 1028
Fax : 028 2531 1029

Web Site : www.hscboard.hscni.net

Email: Michael.Donaldson@hscni.net

19 September 2011

Dear Colleague

Re: Compliance with IR(ME)R (2000), IRR (2000) and SDR

You will be aware that over recent years there has been a concerted effort to ensure that all Northern Ireland General Dental Practitioners are fully conversant with the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations (Northern Ireland) (2000) and the Ionising Radiations Regulations (Northern Ireland) (2000) and that they understand the obligations placed upon them by this legislation.

Despite this effort it would appear from recent Probity checks that a number of dentists are still not adhering to these legislative requirements.

I would like to remind all practitioners that adherence to this legislation requires that all radiographs (including small radiographs – 0201s/0202s/0203s) must be justified and reported on. Both the justification and the report should be recorded in the patient's records.

Practitioners may want to refer to the document *Guidance Notes for Dental Practitioners on the Safe Use of X-Ray Equipment* which is available at the following website:
http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1194947310610. Useful guidance is also available in the FGDP publication *Selection Criteria for Dental Radiography*.

The Statement of Dental Remuneration (SDR) under Item 2 '**PROCEDURES TO ASSIST DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT PLANNING**', Paragraph 2(a) states that the fee per course of treatment is for a 'Radiographic examination and radiological report'. This stipulation applies to all radiographs including small films.

The radiological report is the written clinical evaluation of what is seen from the radiograph, (including incidental findings) whether it records the presence of disease or indeed No Abnormalities Detected (NAD). It is not acceptable to record "See Charting".

Practitioners are reminded that failure to report on radiographs will result in the fee being recovered.

Yours sincerely



Michael Donaldson
Head of Dental Services
HSCB

)

)