

From the Chief Medical Officer
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From the Chief Dental Officer
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Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

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HSS(MD)17/2018

For Action:
Chief Executives, HSC Trusts & HSCB

Please see attached circulation list

Ref: HSS(MD)17/2018
Date: 11 September 2018

Dear Colleague

**NICE Clinical Guideline (CG) 64
Adoption of Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme's (SDCEP)
Implementation Advice on Antibiotic Prophylaxis Against Infective
Endocarditis**

Action Required:

Chief Executives of HSC Trusts involved in the provision of cardiology, cardiac surgery, and dental services should note the adoption of this guidance; and circulate this letter to all relevant staff, including cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, dentists, and oral and maxillofacial surgeons.

Chief Executive of the HSCB should ensure this letter is circulated to General Dental Practitioners for action; and to General Medical Practitioners (including GP locums and GP Out of Hours services) and Community Pharmacists for information.

This NICE endorsed resource now offers practical guidance to dentists on antibiotic prophylaxis against Infective Endocarditis, particularly in terms of:

- Identifying appropriate patients and procedures for special consideration
- The need for consultation with a patient's cardiologist or cardiac surgeon
- The importance of seeking such an assessment when a patient first registers, or a registered patient is newly diagnosed with a relevant cardiac condition
- Advice on what to do when these patients seek emergency dental treatment

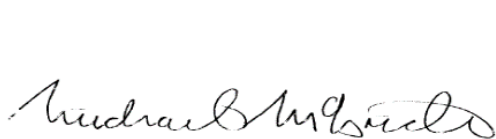
NICE Clinical Guideline 64 (CG64) 'Prophylaxis Against Infective Endocarditis' was amended in July 2016 to state "*Antibiotic prophylaxis against infective endocarditis is not recommended routinely for people undergoing dental procedures.*" SDCEP's advice and supporting tools have been developed to facilitate the implementation of CG64. This has now been adopted by the Department of Health (the Department) for use in Northern Ireland and is available electronically via <http://www.sdcep.org.uk/published-guidance/antibiotic-prophylaxis/>

In addition to dental practitioners, this guidance will assist cardiologists and cardiac surgeons in determining the need for antibiotic prophylaxis and advising dentists accordingly. SDCEP considered guidelines produced by the European Society of Cardiologists and American Heart Association and collaborated with the British Cardiovascular Society in drawing up these guidelines.

The Implementation Advice has been endorsed by, amongst others, the UK Royal Colleges, the Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK), Public Health England, and the Welsh Government.

We trust you will find this guidance to be helpful and we are grateful again to SDCEP for giving permission to refer dental teams and other healthcare professionals here to another user-friendly, evidence-based guidance resource as an important adjunct to support best patient care.

Yours sincerely



Dr Michael McBride
Chief Medical Officer



Simon Reid
Chief Dental Officer

This letter is available on the Department of Health website at

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/professional-medical-and-environmental-health-advice/hssmd-letters-and-urgent-communications>

Circulation List (for onward distribution to all relevant staff)

RQIA (for onward transmission to those dental practices providing solely private dental services and not already on HSCB Dental List)

Postgraduate Medical and Dental Deans, NI Medical and Dental Training Agency
Acting Head of School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences, QUB
Director of Centre for Dental Education, QUB
Executive Medical Director/Director of Public Health, Public Health Agency