

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

To: All NI GDPs

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Email: [michael.donaldson@hscni.net](mailto:michael.donaldson@hscni.net)

Dear Colleague

**Re: Students attending Universities in England/Scotland/Wales returning to Northern Ireland at Christmas**

I would like to draw your attention to a potential issue that may arise in Dental Practices across Northern Ireland over the holiday period. It appears to be increasingly common for Universities and other educational establishments in England, Scotland and Wales to require their students to register with a local General Medical Practice (GMP) or indeed a University Medical Practice. This has the effect of automatically cancelling their registration with a Northern Ireland GMP. As a consequence, their Health & Care Number is deactivated on the BSO core system which is used by the dental payments system to ensure that patients receiving care under the GDS are entitled to do so.

Therefore, even though **NI students registered with GMPs in other parts of the UK are legally entitled to the full range of GDS care here in NI**, when a claim is submitted to BSO under these circumstances the dental payments system may reject that claim.

**As an interim measure, if you find that you have submitted a claim to BSO which has subsequently been rejected and it fits with the situation described above please contact either of the individuals listed below and provide details of your rejected claim. The claim will then be paid in your next schedule.**

- Ryan Doyle – Email: [ryan.doyle@hscni.net](mailto:ryan.doyle@hscni.net) Phone: 02895363740
- Darren Logan – Email: [darren.logan@hscni.net](mailto:darren.logan@hscni.net) Phone: 02895363766

I apologise for the inconvenience caused to practitioners by this anomaly in the patient registration system. Efforts are being made to remedy this issue on the system and I will write to you again when further information is available.

Yours sincerely



**Michael Donaldson  
Head of Dental Services**