

## Annex 2

### Priority Areas for Funding

<b>CATEGORY 1</b>	
<b>Covid-19 Mitigating Measures: Practice Ventilation Systems</b>	
<b>Criteria for funding</b>	<b>Quality Indicators &amp; Benefits to patients</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Costs to support purchasing of necessary ventilation equipment</li><li>• Costs to support installation of ventilation equipment</li><li>• Costs to support building and/or labour costs associated with installation of ventilation equipment</li><li>• Costs associated with professional fees</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• See Advice in Annex 3 for further information.</li><li>• Any purchased and installed ventilation system must obtain a minimum Air Changes Per Hour of 10 ACH as outlined in HTM 03-01</li><li>• Any purchased and installed ventilation system will result in a reduced COVID-19 transmission risk and increased safety for patients and staff, consistent with the GDS Operational Guidance.</li><li>• Any purchased and installed ventilation system will result in a reduced fallow time resulting in increased patient throughput.</li><li>• Please note that air scrubbers are not deemed to be a ventilation system but may be used to supplement natural or mechanical ventilation. In order for air scrubbers to meet the criteria for funding existing natural or mechanical ventilation must be present in the surgery.</li></ul>

**CATEGORY 2**

**Covid-19 Mitigating Measures: High Speed Suction, Rubber Dam & Electric micro-motors/speed-increasing dental hand-pieces**

**Criteria for funding**

**Quality Indicators & Benefits to patients**

High Speed Suction

- Costs to support purchasing of HSS equipment
- Costs to support installation of HSS equipment
- Costs to support maintenance and servicing of HSS equipment

Dental Rubber Dams

- Costs to support purchasing of dental rubber dams and associated equipment
- Costs to support staff training in the use of dental rubber dams

Electric micro-motors/ speed increasing dental hand-pieces

- Purchase of speed increasing hand-pieces as an alternative to air-rotor high-speed hand-pieces

- Any purchased, installed or serviced HSS units must achieve a minimum flow rate of 250 litres per minute
- The use of HSS and dental rubber dams will result in a reduced COVID-19 transmission risk and increased safety for patients and staff
- The use of HSS and dental rubber dams will result in a reduced fallow time resulting in increased patient throughput
- Electric motor hand-pieces to maintain speed of <60,00rpm. The use of these hand-pieces will result in reduced COVID-19 transmission risk, increased safety for patients and staff, and increased patient throughput

**CATEGORY 3**

**Covid-19 Response:**

**Alterations to practice premises, local decontamination units/ equipment, level 1 PPE to support Respiratory Pathway resulting in increased patient throughput/practice capacity**

**Criteria for funding**

- Costs associated with purchasing and installation of equipment to equip additional surgery space to increase patient throughput.
- Costs to support works and/or labour costs associated with practice alterations to meet GDS operational guidance.
- Costs to support upgrade of local decontamination units including Washer Disinfectors, Autoclaves RO water system or alternative; Cabinetry for LDU including storage areas.
- Hand instruments; hand-pieces, endodontic files; Rotary files, matrix bands & other single-use or reusable equipment essential for the provision of patient care and treatment
- Level 1 PPE (level 2 PPE funded separately through SDR)
- Equipment to support domiciliary care of patients who are unable to be treated in a practice setting

**Quality Indicators and Benefits to patients**

- Additional dental surgeries will result in increased patient throughput and increase capacity to expand registered patient base.
- Upgrades to practice facilities should ensure compliance with the GDS operational guidance.
- Compliance with local decontamination guidance and cross infection control is routinely checked by RQIA/HSCB through process of practice inspections.
- Enhances patient safety and resilience of the high street general dental practice estate to deal with emerging infections.
- Upgrades to local decontamination units should ensure compliance with PEL(13)13
- Supports compliance with GDS Operational Guidance.
- Facilitates the provision of care to clinically vulnerable patients in their own setting thus reducing their exposure to transmissible infections.

**CATEGORY 4 Covid-19 Response:**

**Enhancing digital connectivity, digital imaging and electronic communication between Dental Practices, Patients and other HSC organisations**

<b>Criteria for funding</b>	<b>Quality Indicators &amp; Benefits to patients</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Costs to support practice management IT systems, including connectivity to, and use of, the Dental Portal;</li> <li>• Digital radiography and supporting equipment, intra-oral cameras, radiograph scanners and printers;</li> <li>• Costs associated with the development of Practice Management Systems to transmit images to the BSO IT system/ hospital dental service through CCG/ referrals to high street specialist practices.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve efficiency and effectiveness of prior approval process which will ensure that patients receive their care and treatment more promptly. Effectiveness and efficiency of the submission and processing of payment claims will be improved with associated resource savings and facilitates remote working for payments staff in the BSO. Access to HSC e-mail accounts, alerts, CCG etc. Will enhance the e-connectivity of dentists to wider HSC and the efficient and safe transfer of patient information where appropriate. IT upgrades will facilitate reduced paper use by patients (and therefore reduced microbial transmission opportunities), streamlined patient management (therefore offsetting reduced treatment capacity) and better connectivity with patients to ensure timely communication.</li> <li>• Digital images provide a more efficient and reproducible medium for communicating patient information and referrals than hard copies and reduces opportunity for transmission of micro-organisms.</li> <li>• Enhancing connectivity is a key principle set out in the HSC eHealth and Care Strategy (2016) which supports patients and services. Improves speed and security of image transfer and supports triaging of patients according to clinical need.</li></ul>