

General Dental Services – Monthly News Sheet

December
2016



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Updated Guidance from DOH: Early Alert System (Reference: HSC (SQSD) 64/16)

DOH have released updated guidance on the operation of the Early Alert system, to ensure that the Department of Health is notified in a timely fashion of significant events which may require the immediate attention of the Minister, Chief Professional Officers or policy leads and /or require urgent regional action by the Department. GDPs should notify the HSC Board about events within the services that they provide that meet one or more of the described criteria. The HSC Board will then notify the Department. You will note that the protocol requires a senior person from the practice to **speak in person** to the Director of Integrated Care (or deputy) in the HSC Board in such circumstances. **However, if you are unsure whether the incident meets the required criteria, we would encourage you to contact your local office in the first instance, and staff will be able to advise you accordingly.**

Please find linked letter from Dr Sloan Harper, Director of Integrated Care, HSCB

http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/pdf/Letter_to_practices_re_Early_Alert_System.pdf

and Circular HSC (SQSD) 64/16

http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/pdf/Circular_HSC_SQSD_6416_Early_Alert_System.pdf

Buccolam prefilled syringes

The HSCB would ask that you stock Buccolam pre-filled syringes in the practice emergency drug kit in sufficient quantity and dosage to meet the needs of the practice patient base and to cater for at least two emergency situations requiring buccal midazolam. The HSCB has asked the RQIA, as part of its inspection process, to check each dental practice's compliance with the requirement to keep Buccolam in the emergency drug kit. The HSCB will liaise with RQIA to confirm that this requirement has been met in all dental practices.

Further information can be found at the following link:

http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/pdf/Letter_Buccolam_Syringes_November_2016.pdf

Conscious Sedation in Dentistry

SDCEP will run a four-week consultation of its updated *Conscious Sedation in Dentistry* guidance from **Friday 6 January 2017 to Friday 3 February 2017**. Anyone with an interest in sedation for dental care in the UK may view the draft guidance and comment. The draft and instructions for feedback will be provided via the [SDCEP website](#).

During the consultation, short telephone interviews with individuals across the UK involved in the provision of dental sedation will be carried out to inform future implementation of the guidance. If you are interested in being interviewed, please email triads@nes.scot.nhs.uk providing your name, dental sedation role, location and phone number.

Please share this message with others who you think might be interested in this forthcoming consultation.

NIMDTA are pleased to announce that the Recruitment for Dental Educational Supervisors (Trainers) is now open for 2017/18. We welcome applications for this post using the application form which can be found on the NIMDTA website, <http://www.nimdtta.gov.uk/recruitment/dental-recruitment/>. The closing date for applications is Thursday 2nd February 2017.

Please do not hesitate to contact Katie Symington, Dental Training Co-ordinator on 028 90400029 if you require any further information.

Information Security!

The HSCB is aware that some dentists are making patient referrals with patient identifiable information using non-secure electronic networks. Advice on information security is detailed in the HSCB leaflet 'Good Practice Guidance – Information Security' which can be downloaded from <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2705.htm>

In summary, the HSCB does not recommend the use of free internet based e-mail accounts for use as a business tool for the transfer of sensitive information, which includes sensitive patient level information. These types of accounts are more prone to being compromised and therefore increase your risk of suffering a data loss resulting in harm and distress being suffered by your patient and potential reputational damage to your business. Examples of free internet based e-mail accounts include Hotmail, Yahoo, Gmail etc.

Payment to the GDC of Annual Retention Fee (ARF)

In order to practice dentistry all dentists must hold current registration with the GDC. This registration must be renewed through payment of an Annual Retention Fee (ARF) at the end of each calendar year. Each year the GDC contacts the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) to inform it of dentists who have failed to pay their ARF on time. These dentists cannot legally practice dentistry. When the HSCB becomes aware of this situation each dentist is contacted by a dental adviser and advised to stop treating patients (both Health Service and Private) immediately and not to carry out any treatment until they are fully restored to the GDC register. The dentist then has to make alternative arrangements for the patients' continuing and emergency care. It should also be noted that during a period of non-registration the dentist's indemnity is not valid.

For more information, please see: <http://www.gdc-uk.org/Dentalprofessionals/Fees/Pages/Annual-retention-fee.aspx>.

Dental Payments System User Training – Reminder for Practice Principals to complete questionnaire

The HSCB & BSO are planning Dental Payments System User Training for dental practitioners and practice staff, from various venues across the region, in the New Year. This will complement other ongoing work by BSO to resolve technical issues.

The training will be directed primarily at electronic claiming practices but should also benefit those planning to move to electronic processes. It will be delivered by a mix of BSO staff and Practice Managers who understand the issues practices may be experiencing when submitting claims for payment.

To ensure the training meets practice needs and to identify convenient days and times a brief questionnaire was issued by post to all Practice Principals. Principals are reminded to please complete this either online at the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/J9J76SD>

or by returning the hard copy by post to the address provided on the form.

Further details of the training will be issued to practices in the New Year.

Good Prescription Management and Security

GDPs are reminded of the importance of **good prescription management and security** within dental practices and when making domiciliary visits. They should also take timely and appropriate action when prescriptions are stolen or lost. Details are available in the very first issue of 'Prescribing Matters for Dental Practitioners' which can be accessed at the bottom of the dental prescribing page on the BSO website at the following link:

<http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2670.htm>

Feedback. We would appreciate your comments and/or queries regarding the Monthly News Sheet. Please send them by email to: GDSEMonthlyNewsSheet@hscni.net or telephone 028 9536 2823.