

General Dental Services Monthly News Sheet

June 2018

Changes to the Use of Dental Amalgam

Dear Colleague

You will be aware that EU legislation relating to mercury and mercury compounds has been adopted by the UK. Within the EU legislation there are four articles which relate directly to dental amalgam.

	Effective from	Requirements*
Article 10 (1)	1 January 2019	Only encapsulated amalgam may be used
Article 10 (2)	1 July 2018	Dental amalgam must not be used on: deciduous teeth, children under 15 years, pregnant or breastfeeding women. However, in exceptional circumstances practitioners may override this requirement**
Article 10 (4)	1 January 2019	All dental facilities must be equipped with an amalgam separator
	1 January 2021	All separators must retain at least 95% of amalgam particles
Article 10 (6)	1 January 2018	All amalgam waste is handled and collected by an authorised waste management establishment

*This is only a summary of the requirements, you are advised to familiarise yourself with the full requirements as set out in the CDO's 6 April 2018 letter <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2957.htm>

**Practitioners should refer to the relevant SDCEP guidance for more information on the justifiable use of amalgam for these patients <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2957.htm>

In relation to article 10 (2), the Department of Health and HSCB have produced a patient leaflet and practice poster which will be posted out in hard copy to every practice but are also available at the following link for download <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2957.htm>

SDCEP Guidance

The Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme (SDCEP) has, at the request of the four UK Chief Dental Officers, published a guidance document intended to assist practitioners in complying with article 10 (2). The document, *Restricting the Use of Dental Amalgam in Specific Patient Groups - Implementation Advice for Article 10(2) of Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on Mercury*, is available at the link: <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2957.htm>

SDR Changes and New MDS

In order to enable practitioners to comply with article 10 (2), five new codes and fees have been created in Section V (Conservative Treatment) of Determination I of the SDR. Five new parallel item codes with the same associated fees have also been inserted into Section XII (Occasional Treatment). <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2957.htm>

The accompanying MDS 733 explains the changes to the SDR and offers advice on the use of amalgam and the claiming of the new non-amalgam fees in relation to the three patient groups outlined in article 10 (2) <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2370.htm>