

General Dental Services – Monthly News Sheet

**June
2016**

GDS Quality Assurance Returns 2015/16

Under the GDS Terms of Service, all dentists are required to work under a Quality Assurance Scheme and each practice must make a return to the HSCB by 30th June each year.

The annual return seeks assurances in relation to the reporting of Complaints and Adverse Incidents and in relation to practice Business Continuity arrangements. It also includes declarations relating to Controlled Drugs, MDS Documents, Safety Alerts and Notices, GDC Standards, Training in Medical Emergencies and IV Sedation.

Whilst the practice owner/principal signs off the return on behalf of the practice, all practitioners should be aware of the requirements within the return and ensure their own compliance where relevant. A copy of the 2015/16 Quality Assurance Return is available at:

<http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2705.htm>

NICE Public Health Guidelines:

The HSCB would like to make practitioners aware of two Department of Health Circulars dated 14 June 2016 in relation to the endorsement of the following:

PH55 – Oral health: local authorities and partners; and

NG30 - Oral health promotion: general dental practice

These are available at : <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2626.htm>

BSO Counter Fraud and Probity Services

Counter Fraud and Probity Services (CFPS), part of the Business Services Organisation (BSO), provide a full service to Health and Social Care Northern Ireland through a regionally based and professionally qualified team of specialists dedicated to counter fraud and probity work. For more detail on their work and information on how to report fraud click on: <https://cfps.hscni.net/>

The **CFPS 2015/16 Performance Report** can be accessed at: <https://cfps.hscni.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/201516-CFPS-Performance-Report-Online.pdf>

Patient Safety Alert: Risk of patient harm from an interaction between miconazole and coumarin anticoagulants - HSC (SQSD) 38-16.

Please refer to the following alert and take appropriate action:

[http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/pdf/Miconazole Coumarin anti-coagulents interaction\(1\).pdf](http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/pdf/Miconazole_Coumarin_anti-coagulents_interaction(1).pdf)

Public Consultation on the Provision of Communication Support Services for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing across Northern Ireland

A consultation process on the outcome of the regional review of communication support services for people who are deaf or hard of hearing across NI has been launched by the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB).

The HSCB carried out a review of communication support services and a key recommendation from the regional review was that standardised interpreting services for people who are deaf and hard of hearing should be provided to everyone who needs them.

This consultation may be of interest to dentists and dental practice staff who book sign language interpreters to facilitate appointments for patients who are deaf or hard of hearing. Proposals outline how communication support services may be accessed, costed and co-ordinated in the future.

To find out more about the consultation, to respond or view the consultation documents visit www.hscboard.hscni.net/get-involved/consultations. If you have any queries contact the HSCB by email to rcssr@hscni.net **The closing date for this consultation is on or before Monday 5th September 2016 at 5.00 pm.**

Changes to the Public Services Ombudsman Act (NI)

Please be aware of changes to the Public Services Ombudsman Act (NI) and of practice requirements as set out in a letter from Michael Donaldson at the following link: [http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/pdf/NI Public Services Ombudsman Letter 18 May 2016.pdf](http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/pdf/NI_Public_Services_Ombudsman_Letter_18_May_2016.pdf)

Feedback. We would appreciate your comments and/or queries regarding the Monthly News Sheet. Please send them by email to:

GDSMonthlyNewsSheet@hscni.net or telephone 028 9536 2608.