

General Dental Services – Monthly News Sheet

Dear Colleagues

Many dentists now receive this News Sheet directly into their email account. If you would like the News Sheet sent this way please send an email from the relevant email account to : GDSEMonthlyNewsSheet@hscni.net

The Dental Team

**March
2016**

Amendments to Misuse of Drugs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002

The 2002 Regulations are amended to maintain parity in the controlled drugs (CD) legislation throughout the United Kingdom. The proposed amendment will occur in two stages. The first set of regulations came into operation on Tuesday 1st March 2016.

The main change applying to dental practice is the removal of the current exemptions relating to prescriptions for temazepam.

All the requirements applicable to other Schedule 3 drugs will now apply to temazepam.

These are:

- Practitioners are restricted to supplying their patients.
- Make an appropriate entry in the prescriptions log.
- Use a PCD1 form for each private prescription.
- Practices holding stock of temazepam and dispensing temazepam must use a CD register and retain invoices for 2 years.
- Store in a locked CD drug cabinet which can only be opened by the person in lawful possession of the controlled drug or a person authorised by them.
- Temazepam should be destroyed / denatured before being placed into waste containers.

Please take action as appropriate in relation to the above change. For a list of FAQs and a more comprehensive summary of the changes see: <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2670.htm>

The “Dentistry” section of the DHSSPS (NI) website provides advice on dental services and oral health for all dental practitioners and dental care professionals and guidance on workforce planning and contractual arrangements.

It can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/topics/dentistry>

Dental Practitioner Indemnity

Issues have arisen whereby dentists have been found not to have the appropriate level of indemnity in place.

Dental Practitioner indemnity must cover both the extent and category of your work:

- It must be issued for the appropriate number of hours, i.e. depending on whether you are working part time or full-time in GDS (this may be expressed in sessions).
- If you work in another area of dentistry e.g. Out of Hours / working in a Relief of Dental Pain Clinic, hospital, community dental services, salaried services, regional advisory posts, research/ university, your indemnity must cover this.
- Your indemnity cover must apply to Northern Ireland/UK.

Directorate of Integrated Care Local Office Contact Details

In the event of any GDS queries please contact your local office:

Western Office	028 9536 1010
Northern Office	028 9536 2845
Belfast Office	028 9536 3926
South East Office	028 9536 3926
Southern Office	028 9536 2104

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 2608.