

General Dental Services – Monthly News Sheet

**October
2016**

Circular HSC (SQSD) 55/16 Minimising the risk of medication errors with high strength, fixed combination and biosimilar insulin products

The above circular issued by DoH on 26 September 2016, in relation to several new high strength, fixed combination and biosimilar insulin products have become available on the market. Differences in the strength, formulation and dosing of these new insulin products when compared with the existing standard strength insulin preparations, means there is potential for medication errors to occur. For more information see: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/HSC-SQSD-55-16.pdf>

Amendment to the General Dental Services Regulations (Northern Ireland) SR 2016 No. 334: Regulations to allow GDP's to keep all records, including the practice record form, in computerised form came into operation on 10th October 2016. This amendment will facilitate the use of electronic signatures.

For further information please see:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2016/334/regulation/1/made#regulation-1-2>

and

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2016/334/memorandum/contents>.

Flu Clinics for Healthcare Workers

Flu clinics for healthcare workers have been organised by OH teams in all five Health and Social Care Trusts.

It is very important that staff (including bank staff) are vaccinated against flu to protect vulnerable patients.

Please find details of your local programme at:

<http://>

www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2626.htm

Publication of Final Report on NIC-PIP Trial

The Northern Ireland Caries Prevention In Practice (NIC-PIP) trial was designed to address the question of whether or not an evidence-based 'prevention package' delivered in dental practice could keep a substantial proportion of young children, who attend the dentist on a regular basis, caries free.

In summary, the key findings of the NIC-PIP Trial were as follows:

- 34% of intervention group developed caries during the trial compared to 39% of the control group (all children were caries free at the start of the trial). However, this difference was not found to be statistically significant.
- The average number of decayed missing and filled surfaces (dmfs) that occurred per child was 2.45 in the intervention group and 3.74 in the control group. This 34% difference was statistically significant.
- The average number of decayed missing and filled teeth (dmft) that occurred per child was 1.15 in the intervention group and 1.64 in the control group. This 30% difference was statistically significant.
- The mean cost per carious tooth surface avoided was £251 (i.e. when the difference in dmfs levels and treatment costs for the intervention and control groups are considered this is how much it costs to prevent a tooth surface from becoming decayed).

The final report on NIC-PIP has been published on the National Institute of Health Research HTA website at the following address: <http://www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk/hta/volume-20/issue-71#abstract>.

This was the largest ever primary care based dental RCT ever undertaken in the UK, and an endeavor of this scale would not be possible without a huge amount of dedication, professionalism and goodwill on the part of the practices involved and their staff.

Circular HSC (SQSD) 54/16 Ensuring the safe administration of insulin

The above circular issued by DoH on 26 September 2016, to highlight that extracting insulin using an insulin syringe and needle is not safe and results in dosing errors. For more information see: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/HSC-SQSD-54-16.pdf>

Circular HSC (SQSD) 56/16 The introduction of a HSC Never Events List

The above circular issued by DoH on 17 October 2016, in relation to the introduction of a HSC Never Events List and that information relating to these events will be captured as part of the Serious Adverse Incident (SAI) process. Sir Liam Donaldson in his report "The Right Time, the Right Place" made a number of recommendations aimed at improving the safety, quality and effectiveness of the delivery of health and social care services in Northern Ireland. Recommendation 6 of the Donaldson report states that the system for serious adverse incident and adverse incident reporting should be retained but modified through the creation of a limited list of Never Events.

For more information see: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/HSC-SQSD-56-16.pdf>

Happy Smiles Pre-School Oral Health Programme

Happy Smiles is an evidence-based programme which aims to improve the oral health of children in nursery education. The three main elements of this programme are

1. Tooth brushing
2. Healthy snacks
3. Education programme.

The programme was launched by the Health Minister Michelle O'Neill in October 2016 and has been developed by the NI Oral Health Development Group and HSC Trust Community Dental Service teams.

For more information see:

<http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/our-work/integrated-care/dental-services/happy-smiles/>

Faulty Defibrillator Warning!

People and organisations should check if they have the defibrillator models, LIFEPAK CR Plus and LIFEPAK EXPRESS Automatic External Defibrillators (AED), because an electrical fault with some of them may not deliver an electric shock to the heart to someone who is in cardiac arrest. Approximately 2,577 devices are defective.

For more information please see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/faulty-defibrillator-warning>

Don't Suffer In Silence

For information on the range of help and dental advice services available within Northern Ireland, please see;

<http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2668.htm>

GDS Prescribing

GDPs are reminded of the importance of updating Medical Histories and Medication lists at the beginning of each new course of dental treatment. Patients should be encouraged to confirm any changes in existing conditions or drug regimes; inform the dental practice of any new medical conditions and allergies, and provide accurate contact details for the patient's GP. Before any medication is prescribed by the GDP, the patient should be asked if they have any allergies to medicines and records should be updated accordingly.

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.