

General Dental Services – News Sheet

Dear Colleagues

September
2017

This is a Special Edition of the News Sheet to notify you of a proposed **High Street Oral Surgery Personal Dental Services (PDS) Pilot 2017/18**

High Street Oral Surgery Personal Dental Services (PDS) Pilot 2017/18

The HSCB has been communicating with the 6 High Street Oral Surgery (HSOS) Practices across Northern Ireland regarding a proposed pilot aimed at increasing the HSOS specialist oral surgery service for Health Service patients during the 2017/18 financial year, i.e. up to 31 March 2018 .

To justify the additional funding required to run the scheme, the pilot must be able to demonstrate improved patient access through shorter waiting times and more equitable service delivery. Patients must be treated in the appropriate setting according to case complexity with only the most complex cases being referred to hospital.

The proposed pilot would adopt the Treatment Complexity Framework as set out in the NHS England Guide for Commissioning Oral Surgery and Oral Medicine (see overleaf). Under the pilot GPs would be expected to continue to manage Level 1 care, i.e. simple extractions, within their practice and to refer only Level 2 care or above to specialists.

It is acknowledged that GPs currently refer on some Level 1 cases due to patient modifying factors, experience/competency issues and a lack of facilities. Referral arrangements will continue as normal during the pilot period and, if in doubt, HSOS providers will advise on the suitability of individual cases.

It is hoped that a successful pilot evaluation in terms of improved Health Service access and efficiencies will support the case for funding for further phases of the pilot beyond March 2018. It is noted however, that inappropriate referral of low complexity cases to specialists will jeopardise future service provision.

Information on pilot progress including details of participating HSOS practices will be issued in due course.

The pilot will adopt the Treatment Complexity Levels as below and as defined in the NHS England Guide for Commissioning Oral Surgery and Oral Medicine. Further information is available at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-conte>

Complexity and Procedure levels:

The Department of Health Advanced Care Pathway Working Group defined procedures and modifying patient factors that describe the complexity of a case. The levels of complexity do not describe contracts, or practitioners or settings. Levels 1, 2 and 3 care descriptors reflect the competence required of a clinician to deliver care of that level of complexity.

The level of complexity may change depending upon one or more of the following modifying factors:

- Medical History
- Social History
- Patient anxiety
- Other patient-associated modifiers.

Level 1 – Procedures/conditions to be performed or managed by a clinician commensurate with a level of competence as defined by the Curriculum for Dental Foundation Training or equivalent, i.e. capable of being undertaken by the average GDP.

Level 2 – This is defined as procedural and/or patient complexity requiring a clinician with enhanced skills and experience who may or may not be on a specialist register. This care may require additional equipment or environment standards but can usually be provided in primary care. Level 2 complexities may be delivered as part of the continuing care of a patient or may require onward referral. Providers of Level 2 care will need a formal link to a specialist to quality assure the outcome of pathway delivery.

Level 3a – Procedures/conditions to be performed or managed by a clinician recognised as a specialist by the GDC or by a recognised consultant.

Level 3b – Procedures/conditions to be performed or managed by a clinician recognised as a consultant in the relevant specialty, who has received additional training which enables them to deliver more complex care, lead multi disciplinary teams, managed clinical networks and deliver specialist training. The consultant team may include trainees and Speciality Associate Specialist grades.

Level 1 and 2 procedures are usually performed in primary care settings. However, some Level 1, 2 and 3 procedures may be performed in a secondary care setting if modifying patient factors or local circumstances require this e.g. requirement for skill mix and/or multidisciplinary team and/or general anaesthesia.

For more information on the High Street Oral Surgery pilot please contact the Project Manager, Diane McKillen, by email at diane.mckillen@hscni.net or on 028 9536 2608.