

From the Deputy Chief Medical Officer / Chief Dental Officer

**Dr Anne Kilgallen / Simon Reid**

**Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE NG30) 37/16**

**Subject: NICE Public Health Guideline NG30 - Oral health promotion: general dental practice**

**For action by:**

Chief Executive of HSC Board – **for distribution to:**

All HSC Board Directors – for cascade to relevant staff

Director of Integrated Care, HSC Board – **for cascade to:**

Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management  
Family Practitioner Services Leads – for cascade to relevant Family Practitioner groups

Chief Executive of Public Health Agency – **for distribution to:**

Director of Public Health and Medical Director – for cascade to relevant staff  
Director of Nursing and AHPs – for cascade to relevant staff

Chief Executives of HSC Trusts – **for distribution to:**

Medical Directors – for cascade to relevant staff  
Directors of Nursing – for cascade to relevant staff  
Heads of Pharmaceutical Services – for cascade to relevant staff  
Directors of Acute Services – for cascade to relevant staff  
HSC Clinical and Social Governance Leads  
Directors of Social Services – for cascade to relevant staff  
Directors of Finance – for cascade to relevant staff  
AHP Leads – for cascade to relevant staff

Chief Executive, Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority – **for cascade to:** relevant independent healthcare establishments

Chief Executives of HSC Special Agencies and NDPBs

**For Information to:**

Chair of HSC Board  
Chair of Public Health Agency  
Chairs of HSC Trusts  
Chair of RQIA  
NICE Implementation Facilitator NI  
Members of NI NICE Managers' Forum

**Summary of Contents:** This guideline covers how general dental practice teams can convey advice about oral hygiene and the use of fluoride. It also covers diet, smoking, smokeless tobacco and alcohol intake.

**Enquiries:**

Any enquiries about the content of this Circular should be addressed to:

Quality Regulation and Improvement Unit  
DHSSPS  
Room D1.4  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SQ

[SGU-NICEGuidance@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:SGU-NICEGuidance@health-ni.gov.uk)

**Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE NG30) 37/16**

**Date of Issue: 14 June 2016**

**Related documents:**

HSC (SQSD) 37/15

**Superseded documents**

None

**Status of Contents:**

Action

**Implementation:**

As per circular HSC (SQSD) 37/15

**Additional copies:**

Available to download from  
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/safety-and-quality-standards/national-institute-health-and-care-excellence-nice>

## Dear Colleagues

### NICE Public Health Guideline NG30 - Oral health promotion: general dental practice <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng30>

The Department has recently reviewed the above NICE guidance and has formally considered it for applicability in Northern Ireland.

#### Decision:

Recommendations 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.5 and 1.2.1 – 1.2.7 in guideline NG30 - Oral health promotion: general dental practice - are to be taken into account in designing and delivering services that will help general dental practice teams convey advice about oral hygiene and the use of fluoride.

Recommendations 1.1.3 and 1.1.4 are highlighted for particular consideration in designing and delivering services that will help general dental practice teams convey advice about oral hygiene and the use of fluoride.

No formal monitoring or assurance is necessary in respect of any recommendation

#### Action Required:

As outlined in circular HSC (SQSD) 37/15, only those pieces of guidance or specific recommendations determined for implementation require formal monitoring and assurance. Where guidance or recommendations are for noting or highlighted for particular attention, no formal monitoring or assurance is necessary, but organisations may be required to demonstrate how they have taken account of the guidance in planning and delivering services.

In accordance with the process outlined in circular HSC (SQSD) 37/15, the following initial actions should be taken.

1. HSCB/PHA
  - a. Identify a Professional Lead who will consider the commissioning implications of the Public Health Guideline and co-ordinate with any other relevant commissioning teams. This Lead, liaising with others in the HSC Board / PHA, will consider the plans received from the HSC Trusts **in regards to those pieces of guidance or specific recommendations where implementation is required** (within 2 months of receipt) as well as any complex issues they may have highlighted. They will identify any areas where regional planning / investment / commissioning are required, or where there is material risk to safety or quality. These will then be actioned immediately through normal commissioning arrangements or through bespoke arrangements reflecting the nature of the issue / risk.
  - b. The PHA will identify other relevant stakeholders and networks and disseminate as appropriate, typically within two weeks of receipt.
  - c. The HSC Board will ensure that relevant guidance is sent to the appropriate Family Practitioners.
2. HSC Trusts
  - a. Proceed with targeted dissemination, agree a clinical/management lead to coordinate implementation and consider what has to be done to achieve implementation using a risk based assessment and baseline review as

appropriate to support planning. These initial actions should be undertaken within a three month period.

3. RQIA
  - a. Disseminate the Guideline to the independent sector as appropriate.
4. HSC Special Agencies and NDPBs
  - a. Take account of this Guideline in training and other developments as appropriate.

To inform the planning process, please find attached details from the Departmental review. You should consider and take account of other relevant policies and strategies in your planning, as well as any legislative / policy caveats identified in the course of the Departmental review.

The detailed arrangements for implementation, monitoring and assurance can be found in circular (<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/safety-quality-and-standards-circulars-2015-2016>).

A full current list of NICE guidance endorsed for application in Northern Ireland can be found on the Department's website (<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/safety-and-quality-standards/national-institute-health-and-care-excellence-nice>).



**Dr Anne Kilgallen**  
Deputy Chief Medical Officer



**Simon Reid**  
Chief Dental Officer

## Appendix 1

### Endorsed NICE guidance - Details from Departmental review

Reference Number	NICE Public Health Guideline – NG30 <a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng30">https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng30</a>
Title	Oral health promotion: general dental practice
Summary of guidance	<p>This guideline covers how general dental practice teams can convey advice about oral hygiene and the use of fluoride. It also covers diet, smoking, smokeless tobacco and alcohol intake.</p> <p>The recommendations cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• oral health advice given by dentists and dental care professionals</li> <li>• how dentists and dental care professionals can adopt a patient-centred approach</li> </ul>
Related strategically relevant policies	<p>Making Life Better - A Whole System Strategic Framework for Public Health and supporting strategies <a href="https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/topics/public-health-policy-and-advice/making-life-better-whole-system-strategic-framework-public">https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/topics/public-health-policy-and-advice/making-life-better-whole-system-strategic-framework-public</a></p> <p>Primary Dental Care Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006 <a href="https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dhssps/primary-dental-care-strategy-2006.pdf">https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dhssps/primary-dental-care-strategy-2006.pdf</a></p> <p>Oral Health Strategy for Northern Ireland 2007 <a href="https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dhssps/oral-health-strategy.pdf">https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dhssps/oral-health-strategy.pdf</a></p>
Inter-Departmental interest	None at policy/ legislative level
Legislative / policy caveats	This advice does not override or replace the individual responsibility of health professionals to make appropriate decisions in the circumstances of their individual patients, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer. This would, for example, include situations where individual patients have other conditions or complications that need to be taken into account in determining whether the NICE guidance is fully appropriate in their case.

	<p>Where the guidance makes reference to 'NHS Choices' and 'Dental Costs', you should refer to <a href="https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/dentists-and-health-service-dental-charges">https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/dentists-and-health-service-dental-charges</a></p> <p>Some pieces of NICE Public Health guidance are referenced in NG30 which pre-date the introduction of the process for endorsing Public Health guidelines. All Public Health guidance endorsed by DHSSPS can be found at: <a href="https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/nice-public-health-guidance">https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/nice-public-health-guidance</a></p>
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## **NICE NG30 - Oral health promotion: general dental practice**

<b>Recommendation</b>		<b>Endorsed for:</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Oral health advice given by dentists and dental care professionals</b>	
1.1.1	Give all patients (or their parents or carers) advice during dental examinations based on the oral health messages in Public Health England's Delivering better oral health. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• advice on oral hygiene practices and the use of fluoride</li> <li>• advice about diet, smoking, smokeless tobacco and alcohol intake</li> </ul>	Taking account of in designing or delivering services.
1.1.2	Ensure the advice is tailored to meet individual needs. (See section 1.2 in this guideline and recommendation 8 in NICE's guideline on behaviour change: individual approaches.)	Taking account of in designing or delivering services.
1.1.3	Ask and record whether the person uses tobacco. Follow recommendation 6 in NICE's guideline on smoking cessation services and, if necessary, offer brief advice and offer to refer them to the local stop smoking service	Highlighting for particular attention.
1.1.4	Consider asking people about their alcohol use, following recommendations in NICE's guideline on alcohol use disorders: preventing-harmful drinking.	Highlighting for particular attention.

1.1.5	Consider delivering oral health improvement messages in a variety of formats and using different media to meet the needs of different groups.	Taking account of in designing or delivering services.
<b>1.2</b>	<b>How dentists and dental care professionals can adopt a patient-centred approach</b>	
1.2.1	Encourage the dental practice team to develop a good relationship with patients so they can help them maintain good oral health. All staff, including reception and support staff, should understand the importance of creating a welcoming environment for everyone. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• families with babies or very young children</li> <li>• children and adults with a physical or sensory impairment.</li> </ul>	Taking account of in designing or delivering services.
1.2.2	Recognise that contact with those who do not attend regularly (for example, when they attend for emergency care) provides an important opportunity to establish a positive relationship.	Taking account of in designing or delivering services.
1.2.3	Provide information about how people can find a local dentist or find out if they qualify for free or subsidised NHS dental care. If they do qualify for free or subsidised care, tell them where they can find out how to make a claim (see NHS Choices information on dental costs).	Taking account of in designing or delivering services.
1.2.4	Listen to patients' needs and offer tailored advice, without judging them if	Taking account of in designing or delivering services.

	<p>their oral health is poor or if some of their behaviours adversely affect their health (see NICE's quality standard for patient experience in adult NHS services).</p>	
1.2.5	<p>Create an individually tailored dental care plan with the patient or their parent or carer. This should combine strategies to prevent, as well as to treat, oral health problems. To develop the preventive part of the plan, ask about the patient's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• personal circumstances and their oral health (in the past and now) to gauge their risk of poor oral health</li> <li>• oral hygiene practices and how often they use fluoride</li> <li>• behaviours that may affect their oral health in the short or long term, including their diet, smoking, or using smokeless tobacco or alcohol (see more information in the context section)</li> <li>• existing health conditions or any disabilities or other difficulties that might prevent them from maintaining or improving their own oral health, or the oral health of someone they care for.</li> </ul>	<p>Taking account of in designing or delivering services.</p>
1.2.6	<p>Ensure the patient, or their parent or carer, understands the plan to maintain or improve their oral health.</p>	<p>Taking account of in designing or delivering services.</p>
1.2.7	<p>Be aware of the personal, cultural, social,</p>	<p>Taking account of in designing or delivering</p>



	<p>environmental and economic barriers to good oral health. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the links between poor oral health and socioeconomic deprivation</li><li>• recognising that some people may not think it is important to go to the dentist regularly</li><li>• understanding that some parents or carers may not realise that it is important to keep children's primary teeth healthy</li><li>• being aware that people may need help to use dental services.</li></ul>	services.
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