

General Dental Services Monthly News Sheet

October 2019

IT'S FLU SEASON AGAIN!

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

Details can be found at <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2626.htm>

It is very important that staff are vaccinated against flu to protect vulnerable patients. We are hoping to significantly improve the uptake rate of flu vaccination by healthcare workers this year.

Please encourage your staff to take advantage of the opportunity to protect themselves and others against flu by getting their flu vaccination.



Proposed Changes to the NIGDS Levy Fund

HSCB is encouraging dentists to respond to a consultation to change the Local Dental Committee (LDC) levy fund collection model from an 'opt-in' to an 'opt-out' one. In a letter sent to all GDPs on 26 September 2019, HSCB is proposing to change the way levies are collected to support the work of LDCs in Northern Ireland.

The levy fund enables general dental practitioners to take time out of practice to represent dentistry's interests in meetings with the Department of Health, the HSCB, the Business Services Organisation and other key stakeholders.

In recent years, demographic changes have resulted in list numbers being issued more frequently, resulting in a sharp decline in the number of contributors to the levy fund. This has meant annual deficits, and levy fund reserves becoming depleted.

The letter can be found at the following link: <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/3011.htm> and responses should be emailed to: GDS.Correspondence@hscni.net by Monday 21 October 2019.

Issue of Correspondence by HSC Email

The following correspondence was issued to your personal, secure HSC email account during September 2019 and October 2019.

- SQR/SAI/2018/051 (AS/PHC) Delayed Diagnosis of Diabetic Ketoacidosis and Type 1 Diabetes in a Young Adult
- Letter and guidance from Department of Health regarding EU Exit Operational Readiness
- HSS(MD) 21 2019 – Update of Guidance on Clearance and Management of Healthcare Workers living with a Bloodborne Virus (BBV)
- Advice in relation to the Submission of Payments for Courses of Treatment Provided by Multiple Practitioners or Practitioners with Multiple DS Numbers
- HSCB Letter in relation to Cessation of Hard Copy Monthly Schedules and Withdrawal of the HCN Phonenumber
- Programme for 2019/20 Flu Clinics for Healthcare Workers
- LDC and HSCB Letter regarding Proposed Changes to NIGDS Levy Fund
- Letter from BSO regarding New BSO FPS Phone Number

You are encouraged to login to your email account regularly to ensure you don't miss important documentation. If you do not have an hsc email account or are experiencing difficulties further information is available at: <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2985.htm>



Introducing Dental Script Help with Prescribing

HSCB have recently procured licences for to all General Dental Practitioners (currently active on the NI Dental List) to access an innovative eLearning programme to support practitioners in prescribing, therapeutics and medicine management. SCRIPT has been specifically designed to improve safety and competency among healthcare professionals. This particular product has been selected on the basis it can be accessed online in your preferred location and at a time of your choice. Safe prescribing continues to be an area of ongoing professional development for all practitioners and is an area in which competency and experience varies, therefore the ability to use the tool at your own pace and to revisit it is also an added benefit.

To access this programme, use link: <https://hscb.dentalprescriber.org/login> and register as a new user using your HSC email address (you will have to create your own password). If you have any queries, please contact Marlene Drummond, Assistant Business Support Manager via marlene.drummond@hscni.net.



Off-Payroll Working in the Public Sector – HMRC IR35

The off-payroll working rules can apply if a worker provides their services as an individual or through an intermediary.

The off-payroll working rules (often known as IR35) are in place to ensure that where an individual would have been an employee if they were providing their services directly, they pay broadly the same tax and National Insurance contributions (NICs) as an employee. IR35 is designed to assess whether a contractor is a genuine contractor rather than a 'disguised' employee, for the purposes of paying tax.

You may be affected by these rules if you are:

- a worker who provides their services directly or through their intermediary
- a client who receives services from a worker directly or through their intermediary
- an agency providing workers' services through their intermediary

The off-payroll rules must be considered if the HSCB or PHA (public sector clients) hire people who provide their services through an intermediary or as an individual.

If the rules apply, tax and National Insurance contributions must be deducted from fees and paid to HMRC.

These rules must now be applied to individuals who work in the HSCB and PHA including through an intermediary.

How Does This Affect Dentists?

The HSCB has drawn up a list of groups of dentists who may be affected by IR35; these include any dentists working in out-of-hours Emergency Dental Clinics (OOH EDCs) or being paid sessional rates for attendances at HSCB meetings or working groups. Using the HRMC on-line assessment tool-kit, it has been established that dentists working in OOH EDCs and dentists being paid sessional rates for attendances at HSCB meetings or working groups are covered by IR35.

The HSCB is working with the BSO to ensure that any dentists covered by IR35 will be paid through the appropriate method when working in the roles described above. Dentists who will be affected are those who have in the past have received cheques/direct payments for OOH EDC work or other sessional type payments which are not paid through the monthly GDS schedule. These dentists will need to be put on the HSCB payroll and paid as an employee when working in the roles described above. This will mean that they will have the appropriate tax and NICs deducted at source for payments associated with OOHs EDC work etc. This will not affect the self-employed status of general dental practitioners when working under the GDS in their dental practices.

Payment Claims

MDS 726 was issued to the profession on 7th July 2016 and referred to the arrangements for the submission of payments where more than one contractor had carried out treatment.

This advice contained with MDS 726 has now been rescinded.

Advice in relation to the submission of payments for courses of treatment provided by multiple practitioners or practitioners with multiple DS numbers can be found in section 4 of Appendix 1 of the Dealing with Practice Changes advice document available at <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2705.htm>

Out Of Hours Dentists

All dentists working in the Emergency Dental Clinics providing Out of Hours care (Belfast City Hospital, Craigavon Area Hospital and Dalriada Urgent Care) do so in the capacity of a General Dental Practitioner and are reminded that they must have appropriate indemnity cover in place. Practitioners who have reduced indemnity cover due to working part-time in general dental practice should ensure that their cover remains sufficient as a result of any OOH work undertaken in these clinics. If any dentist is unsure whether their level of indemnity cover is sufficient to include their hours worked in Emergency Dental Clinics, they should contact their indemnifier for advice.

Introducing the General Dental Services Assistance Programme

At one time or another, we all experience difficulties that can leave us feeling overwhelmed. Sometimes just talking to friends or family can help, but at other times it may be useful to talk to someone trained to listen who can offer support, guidance and a fresh outlook.

That's why we have partnered with Inspire Workplaces to provide the new **General Dental Services Assistance Programme**.

Available to GDS Contracted Dentists, the programme can support you in dealing sensitively with personal and professional issues that may impact on your home or work life.

24 Hour Confidential Telephone Support Line

At any time, you can access the Freephone telephone helpline support line. Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, it is staffed by a network of accredited and highly experienced counsellors who if required can provide immediate, confidential support.

Face-to-Face Off-site Counselling

If required, counselling may be provided off-site in suites located in all major towns throughout Northern Ireland, in a supportive and comfortable environment.

Financial, Legal and Other Specialist Information

Many personal factors can influence our mental health and wellbeing, and in addition to our counselling service, we can provide information on financial, legal and other specialist areas.

For more information, email: workandstudy@inspirewellbeing.org

Whatever's on your mind, call free and confidentially, 24/7 on: 0800 389 5362



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New BSO FPS Telephone Number

BSO FPS is now implementing a new phone system which is designed to make it easier for customers to contact them and speak to the correct person more quickly. The new general phone number **028 9536 0333** for all queries. You will then have a range of options for the various teams. Please see linked letter from BSO for further information: <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/pdf/New%20BSO%20FPS%20phone%20number.pdf>