

Strategic Planning and Performance Group

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Department of

Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

Date: 12 January 2023

Dear Colleague,

Re: Enhanced dental access and prevention of dental decay in children aged 0 -10 years in Northern Ireland.

The Strategic Planning and Performance Group of the Department of Health would like to advise General Dental Practitioners of a dedicated scheme to improve access to dental care for unregistered patients aged 0-10 years.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a very significant impact on General Dental Services. However, while registration levels for the wider population remain at a historical high, levels of registration for children in the 0-10-year age group have fallen markedly over the last three years. The enhanced access and prevention for 0-10-year olds scheme aims to address this situation by encouraging early registration with a dentist, and in doing so provide an opportunity for early preventive interventions.

The scheme involves a one-off payment of £14.30 for each child aged between 0-10 years who is newly registered with a GDS dentist from 1st January 2023 to 31st March 2023 and has an enhanced examination completed (see Appendix 1 attached for full eligibility criteria and remuneration model). This payment will be based on the 'acceptance date' with a GDS dentist. The payment will be automatically applied to any new 0-10-year-old patient registrations from 1st January 2023 to 31st March 2023 therefore does not require dentists to actively claim for this scheme, however the cut-off date for submitting EDI/Portal claims for this scheme to BSO is 12th April 2023, further details can be found in Appendix 1. This is an additional payment for each patient registered and examined under the scheme over and above any Item of Service payments claimed for treatment on these patients.

Full details can be found in the terms of the scheme (Appendix 1). And in the accompanying conditions of payment document (Appendix 2).

We are relying on dentists' professionalism to complete all aspects of the enhanced clinical examination for all patients seen under the scheme, as outlined in Appendix 1.

If you have any queries in respect of the pilot scheme not covered in the terms of the scheme please email GDS.correspondence@hscni.net

Yours sincerely

Michael Donaldson

**Head of Dental Services
Services**

Michael O'Neill

Head of General Dental & Ophthalmic