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4 November 2026

To all registered dentists in Northern Ireland

Dear colleague

Preparation and planning for the phase out of Dental Amalgam in Northern Ireland

You may recall I have written to you with regards to the global phase out of dental amalgam by the end of 2034.[1]

My intention is to ensure as smooth a transition as possible for you as practitioners, and for patients, so that we can meet the requirements for a phase out of dental amalgam in Northern Ireland by 31 December 2034.

As part of the preparations for the phase out of dental amalgam, the Department of Health continues to fund a programme of education and training for dentists working in primary care, community or hospital services. The transition away from amalgam will require changes in clinical practice and an increasing reliance on alternative restorative materials. This training has been designed to support dentists in that transition, especially those who may not have used amalgam alternatives for restoring posterior teeth.

This education programme is hosted by NIMDTA on their education platform and comprises:

- An on-demand ***Alternatives to Amalgam*** 1-hour webinar:

[1] https://minamataconvention.org/sites/default/files/documents/working_document/UNEP-MC-COP6-06-Amendments-AnnexA_English.pdf

The aim of this webinar is to highlight non-amalgam filling products that can be used in posterior teeth.

- A 3-hour ***Alternatives to Amalgam*** Hands-on workshop:
  The aim of this hands-on workshop is to provide dentists with some practical experience of non-amalgam restorative materials for posterior teeth.

  Attendees will be able to:
  - Discuss and plan options for cavity design and restoration
  - Identify cavity designs and desired material selections
  - Discuss likely future requirements for restoration selection
  - Evaluate and apply isolation, matrices selection and placement
  - Select and complete a restoration with appropriate finishing techniques

Both the webinar and workshop are provided free of charge to attendees and will provide verifiable CPD. As we move towards the mandatory phase out of dental amalgam, it is important that practitioners are equipped with the knowledge and skills to use alternative restorative materials and I would encourage you to use this funded opportunity to assist with your learning and development.

Yours sincerely



Chief Dental Officer
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