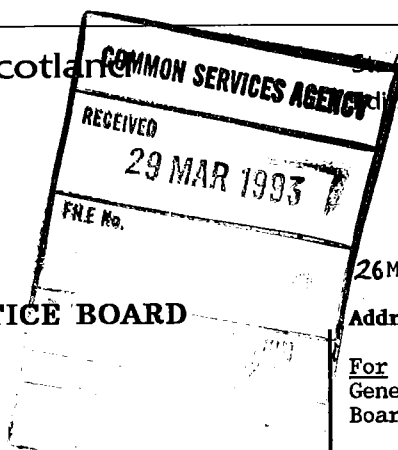




THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

NHS
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National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive



St Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES ROLES OF SCOTTISH DENTAL PRACTICE BOARD AND DENTAL PRACTICE DIVISION

26 March 1993

Addressees:

For action -
General Managers, Health Boards

For information -
General Manager, Common Services Agency, Chief Executives and NHS Trusts

To be copied to all GDS dentists

Summary

1. From April 1993 the work of the Scottish Dental Practice Board (SDPB) will focus on questions of national policy on NHS General Dental Services (GDS), and advising Health Boards and the Management Executive, headed by an independent Chairman. The Dental Practice Division (DPD) of the Common Services Agency (CSA) will continue to carry out the processing of claims for payment by dentists, and analysis and provision of information to Health Boards and the SDPB. A Memorandum outlining the changes is attached for Health Boards to circulate to all dentists who provide GDS.

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Action

2. Health Boards are invited to note the revised roles of the SDPB and DPD from 1 April 1993 and to ensure that affected staff are aware of this and that queries about particular payments should be taken up with the DPD.

3. Health Boards are asked to circulate copies of the Memorandum to this letter to all dentists who provide GDS in their area, including GPs, joint appointment CDS/GDS staff, and Health Board salaried dentists.

4. Health Boards are reminded of the need to deal promptly and conscientiously with cases referred to them by the DPD which may involve a breach of Regulations by an individual dentist.

Background

5. The SDPB's existing remit already provides for it to carry out a range of duties relating to the provision of GDS as well as overseeing the payment system for dentists. In future the SDPB will concentrate on its wider role and will consider strategic questions about national policy on GDS, and provide advice to Health Boards and the Management Executive about the level and quality of

GDS provision. The SDPB will also consider appropriate areas of research aimed at improving provision and the cost effectiveness of GDS.

6. To emphasise its revised role from April 1993 the SDPB will be headed by an independent Chairman, and Regulations currently before Parliament provide for the membership of the SDPB to be increased to 4 dental and 3 lay members (at present 4 dental and 2 lay).

7. The statutory responsibilities of the SDPB will remain unaltered but the day to day activity of receiving and processing claims for payment and estimates requesting prior approval for treatment will be carried out by the DPD of CSA under its own Director, Mr James Shoolbread. Queries about the handling of an individual claim for payment or estimate for prior approval should in future be directed to the DPD.

8. DPD will continue to identify cases from time to time where it appears that a dentist may have breached GDS Regulations, and to refer these cases to the Health Board concerned for possible action under Service Committee procedure. Health Boards are asked to deal with these cases and reach a conclusion promptly so that DPD can take any necessary action to adjust payments.

Agnes Robson

AGNES ROBSON
Director of Primary Care

**DENTISTS
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES**

REVISED ROLES OF SCOTTISH DENTAL PRACTICE BOARD AND DENTAL PRACTICE DIVISION

1. Following a review of the functions of the Scottish Dental Practice Board (SDPB) and the Dental Practice Division (DPD) of the Common Services Agency (CSA), Government Ministers have decided that their present respective roles should be clarified.

2. From April 1993 the role of the SDPB will be to consider wider questions of national policy on NHS GDS, to provide advice and information to Health Boards and the Management Executive on the level and standard of GDS provision, and to consider appropriate areas of research into improvement in the provision and cost effectiveness of the GDS. To underline this change in emphasis, the SDPB will be headed by an independent Chairman (who will no longer also be Director of DPD) and Regulations currently before Parliament provide for the SDPB's membership to be increased to 4 dental members and 3 lay members (at present 4 dental and 2 lay members).

3. The SDPB will keep its present statutory responsibilities for overseeing the payment system for dentists, but the day to day activity of receiving, processing and authorising claims for payment and estimates requesting prior approval for treatments will be carried out by the DPD of CSA under its own Director, Mr James Shoolbread. Queries relating to the handling of an individual claim or application for prior approval should in future be directed to the DPD.

NHS Management Executive
26 March 1993