



NHS Management Executive
St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
7th October 1997

Dear Colleague

**IMPLEMENTING THE REFORMS TO SPECIALIST
DENTAL TRAINING**

**COMMISSIONING THE SPECIALIST REGISTRAR
GRADE**

1. This letter provides information on the introduction of the Specialist Registrar (SpR) grade in dentistry.
2. The actions listed in Appendix 3 to *A Guide to Specialist Registrar Training* (March 1996) have now been completed for the specialties of Restorative Dentistry and Dental Public Health. The SpR grade will therefore be introduced in these 2 specialties from 1 October 1997.
3. At present it is not possible to publish dates for commissioning the SpR grade in other dental specialties.
4. This information should be brought to the attention of all those who need be involved to ensure that they are fully aware of the impending changes, of the guidance that is available and of where further information can be obtained.

Yours sincerely

GERRY MARR
Director of Human Resources

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IMPLEMENTING THE REFORMS TO SPECIALIST DENTAL TRAINING

COMMISSIONING THE SPECIALIST REGISTRAR GRADE

Timetable

1. The specialties starting transition on 1 October 1997 are:
 - *Restorative Dentistry*; and
 - *Dental Public Health*.
2. Since the full requirements for commissioning, as set out in Appendix 3 to *A Guide to Specialist Registrar training* (March 1996), remain to be met for the new specialties of Endodontics, Periodontics and Prosthodontics, it is not yet possible to launch Specialist Registrar training in these specialties at present.
3. Further guidance will be issued once it is possible to introduce SpR training in the remaining dental specialties.
4. (Although Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery comes under dental workforce planning, it is included within the medical specialties for higher specialist training and the transition to the SpR grade has been completed.)

Action and further guidance

5. Employers should ensure that:
 - the transition to the SpR grade begins on 1 October in the above two specialties;
 - no new appointments to the registrar or senior registrar grades in these specialties are made after 1 October. Therefore, *with immediate effect*, all higher specialist training appointments advertised in these specialties will be for placements in Specialist Registrar training programmes;
 - it is essential that, in the other dental specialties, the normal registrar and senior registrar recruitment procedures are applied until individual specialties begin their transition; and
 - all posts in higher specialist training have been approved as training posts by the Dental Director of SCPMDE.

6. Employers need to be aware that:
- transition to the SpR grade for the remaining dental specialties will be announced in due course;
 - all trainees who transfer to the SpR grade should receive contracts in the new grade; and
 - SpR numbers for each specialty were announced by the Scottish Office Department of Health in April 1997 (NHS Circular MEL(1997)22). The Department will continue to review every year the numbers in higher specialist training.
7. Detailed guidance on the reforms to specialist dental training is provided in *A guide to Specialist Registrar training* (March 1996) and the *Interim Dental Supplement* (August 1996).

Responsibility for the SpR grade in dentistry in Scotland

8. The Dental Director of SCPMDE is responsible for the overall management and delivery of dental SpR training in Scotland. A national Specialty Training Committee (STC) is responsible for the organisation of SpR training in each specialty throughout Scotland.