



NHS Management Executive
St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

12th March 1998

Dear Colleague

PAYMENT FOR DENTAL TREATMENT - PATIENTS IN LONG STAY CARE

Summary

1. This letter provides guidance to Health Boards and NHS Trusts on payment for dental treatment provided to patients in long stay care.

Background

2. Hospitals are responsible for the care of their long stay patients. Where a Hospital asks a dentist (whether that dentist is working in the Hospital, a member of the Community Dental Service or an independent or salaried practitioner) to provide treatment for one or more of its long stay patients, that care must be provided free of charge to the patient. Any independent or salaried general dental practitioner who provides such treatment should submit a claim for payment to the Trust or Health Board which has responsibility for the relevant Hospital. Treatment fees would normally be NHS General Dental Service fees as outlined in the Statement of Dental Remuneration.

3. On the other hand, if a long stay patient asks an independent general dental practitioner of his or her choice to provide treatment, that patient is responsible for paying the dentist, unless they are otherwise entitled to free NHS dental treatment. In such circumstances the dentist should collect the patient charge, where appropriate, and send a GP17 to the Dental Practice Division in the normal way for scheduling of the appropriate fees.

Action

4. Health Boards and Trusts are asked to ensure that the proper charging arrangements are followed when dental treatment is provided to long stay patients.

Yours sincerely

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Director of Primary Care

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