



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Health Department
Directorate of Service Policy & Planning

NHS:
2003 PCA(D)15

St Andrew's House
Regent Road
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION OF PENSION CREDIT
2. REVISED FORMS GP17 AND GP17PR
3. FORM GP14

Summary

1. This letter advises NHS Boards, Primary Care Trusts and Practitioner Services of a change in entitlement to free NHS dental treatment as a result of the introduction of Pension Credit with effect from 6 October 2003.

Action

2. NHS Boards, Primary Care Trusts and Practitioner Services are asked to note the contents of the Memorandum to this letter.
3. Forms GP17 and GP17PR are being revised to reflect the new Pension Credit. Supplies of the revised forms, which can be identified by the revision date 10/03, will be issued to NHS Boards/Primary Care Trusts in due course for onward distribution to dentists by 1 October 2003. The current version of the GP17 and GP17PR should not be used after 6 October and stocks should be destroyed as soon as possible after that date.
4. A revised version of the GP14 will not be available for 6 October 2003. Dentists are being advised that current versions of the GP14 will require to be used until stocks of the revised form are received. Supplies of the revised GP14 will be issued to NHS Boards/Primary Care Trusts in due course for onward distribution to dentists. Stocks of the current version of the GP14 should be destroyed when the new version is received.

22 September 2003

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, Primary Care
Trusts
and NHS Boards

Director, Practitioner Services

For information

Chief Executive,
Common Services Agency

Enquiries to:

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4. Copies of the Memorandum to this letter are being sent under separate cover for **urgent** distribution to all dentists on NHS Board/Primary Care Trust lists.

Yours sincerely

DR HAMISH WILSON
Primary Care Division

**DENTISTS
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES**

- 1. INTRODUCTION OF PENSION CREDIT**
- 2. REVISED FORMS GP17 AND GP17PR**
- 3. FORM GP14**

1. This Memorandum advises dentists of a change in entitlement to free NHS dental treatment as a result of the introduction of Pension Credit with effect from 6 October 2003.

Pension Credit

2. From 6 October 2003, Pension Credit will replace Minimum Income Guarantee, which is currently paid as Income Support, for people aged 60 or over. Pension Credit consists of two elements – guarantee credit and savings credit. There will be three types of Pension Credit award: guarantee credit on its own, saving credit on its own or guarantee and savings credit paid together.

3. People getting Pension Credit guarantee credit (paid on its own or with a savings credit) will be entitled to free NHS dental treatment. The recipient will need to check their award notice as this will tell them what type of Pension Credit they are receiving, which will determine whether or not they are entitled to free NHS dental treatment. ***Only the award notice will be proof of entitlement to free NHS dental treatment for the purposes of the Point of Treatment checks.*** Although the Pension Credit payment books which recipients receive contain an exemption certificate these books do not say which element of Pension Credit the recipient is entitled to. Even though the exemption certificate makes it clear that savings credit on its own does not entitle the recipient, or their partner, to help with health costs this is not acceptable proof of entitlement to free NHS dental treatment. If a person getting savings credit on its own wants help with their health costs, they may make a NHS Low Income Scheme claim in the normal way.

4. Amended pages, to reflect the introduction of Pension Credit, for the loose-leaf binder “Dental Point of Treatment Checks in Scotland – A guide for dentists and dental staff”, will be issued in due course.

Form GP17 and GP17PR

5. The GP17 (Registration and Claim Form) and GP17PR (EDI Practice Record Form) are being revised to reflect the new Pension Credit. Supplies of the revised forms, which can be identified by the revision date 10/03, will be issued to dentists by NHS Boards/Primary Care Trusts by 1 October and will include the new category “I/my partner receive(s) Pension Credit guarantee credit”.

6. Current versions of the GP17 and GP17PR should not be used after 6 October 2003 and should be destroyed as soon as possible after that date.

Form GP14

7. A revised version of the GP14 (Dental Prescription Form) will not be available for 6 October 2003. The current version of the GP14 will therefore require to be used until stocks of the revised form are received. From 6 October partners aged under 60 of people getting Pension Credit guarantee credit should be advised to put a cross in the Income Support box on the current version of the form to claim exemption from NHS prescription charges. The person in receipt of Pension Credit guarantee credit will automatically be entitled to a free NHS prescription because of their age.

8. Supplies of the revised GP14 will be issued in due course. Stocks of the current version of the GP14 should be destroyed when the new version is received.

Enquiries

9. Any enquiries arising from this Memorandum should be taken up with your NHS Board or Primary Care Trust.

Scottish Executive Health Department
22 September 2003