



## SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

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Health Department  
Directorate of Service Policy & Planning

NHS:  
2003 PCA(D)16

St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
EDINBURGH  
EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

### GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES

### GRANTS AND ALLOWANCES FOR GENERAL DENTAL PRACTITIONERS LEAFLET

#### Summary

1. This letter asks NHS Boards and Primary Care Trusts to provide a copy of the attached leaflet on grants and allowances to dentists who join their NHS dental list.

#### Background

2. The attached leaflet has been produced to raise awareness of the various grants and allowance which dentists providing NHS general dental services can claim. Copies of the leaflet have been sent directly to all dentists on NHS Board/Primary Care Trust dental lists and also to vocational trainees and dental undergraduates.

3. Dentists on joining a NHS Board/Primary Care Trust dental list should already receive a copy of the following:

- The NHS (General Dental Services) (Scotland) Regulations 1996 and the amendments to the Regulations;
- The current version of the Statement of Dental Remuneration and any amendments to that SDR;
- The Dental Practitioners' Formulary;
- Leaflet on Grants and Allowances for General Dental Practitioners;
- Health Equipment Information (HEI) 203

3 October 2003

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#### Addresses

##### For action

Chief Executives, Primary Care Trusts  
and NHS Boards

##### For information

Chief Executive,  
Common Services Agency

Director,  
Practitioner Services

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#### Enquiries to:

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4. Where NHS general dental services will be provided from a new dental practice, ie a practice whose address does not already appeared on the dental list, the following should also already be provided:

- Dental Point of Treatment Checks A guide for dentists and dental staff loose-leaf folder and A5 reference card (2 copies of each);
- Don't Take a Bite poster (1 copy);
- Don't Take a Bite leaflet (100 copies);
- Worried Sick poster (1 copy);
- HC30 Are you entitled to help with the cost of NHS dental treatment poster (1 copy).

5. A copy of the attached leaflet on grants and allowances for general dental practitioners, which should be reproduced locally as required, should also be provided to all dentists on joining the NHS Board/Primary Care Trust dental list. We intend to update the leaflet on grants and allowances annually or when necessary and will send updated copies to NHS Boards/Primary Care Trusts.

**Action**

6. NHS Boards and Primary Care Trusts are asked to ensure that dentists are provided with a copy of the leaflet contained in Annex A to this letter on joining their dental list.

Yours sincerely

DR HAMISH WILSON



## **GRANTS AND ALLOWANCES FOR GENERAL DENTAL PRACTITIONERS**

**These grants and allowances have been introduced by the Scottish Executive in consultation with the Scottish Dental Practice Committee.**

### **NEW PRACTITIONERS**

- A “**Golden Hello**” allowance of **£5,040** over two years for dentists who join the dental list of a Primary Care Trust (PCT) or NHS Board (NHSB) within three months of completing their training. If this is in a designated area\* the allowance is doubled to **£10,080** over two years (Determination XIII).
- A **£3,000** allowance for newly qualified dentists taking up vocational training in a designated area\* (Determination XIII).

\*As of 1 August 2002 designated areas include: Orkney, Shetland, Western Isles, Highland, Borders, Dumfries & Galloway, Grampian and, within Argyll & Clyde, Campbeltown, Dunoon, Lochgilphead, Lochgoilhead, Oban, Rothesay, Tarbert and the Isles of Mull, Iona, Colonsay, Tiree, Islay and Jura.

### **RETURNING PRACTITIONERS**

- The recently enhanced **Return to Work scheme** offers grants under the Scottish Dental Access Initiative (see below), an increase in the NHS earnings potential for the first year back in practice, reimbursement of indemnity insurance costs and free (in most cases) training courses from NHS Education for Scotland. Practice owners who take on a returner also receive a payment to offset the slower workrate of a returner in their first year back (NHS: 2003 PCA(D)2).

### **ESTABLISHED PRACTITIONERS**

- **Commitment payments** have been extended to cover assistants from 1 April 2003 (Determination IX) (**Contact: Practitioner Services**).

### **CAPITAL GRANTS**

- **Vocational Training Practice** – grants of up to **£10,000** (subject to NHS commitment) to ensure that appropriate NHS Education for Scotland standards are met by dentists wishing to establish a new Vocational Training practice or to improve an existing one (Determination X).
- **Scottish Dental Access Initiative** – grants of up to **£50,000** to dentists proposing to establish new NHS practices or grants of up to **£25,000** to dentists proposing to expand existing NHS practices in areas of unmet patient demand or high oral health need.

### **QUALITY INITIATIVES**

- **General Dental Practice Allowance** – calculated with reference to NHS earnings up to a maximum of **£3,000 per dentist**. This is to address increasing requirements in relation to the provision of high quality premises, information, health and safety, clinical standards and practice staff training (Determination XIV).

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Information about these grants and allowances can be found in the SDR Determinations and circulars. Any further enquiries should be made to the local PCT or NHS Board unless an alternative is stated above.



- ❑ **Sedation Practice Allowance** – calculated with reference to NHS earnings up to a maximum of **£2,000 per practice**. This is for practices offering such services to agreed standards and conditions (sedation practice inspection) which will be developed with the profession (Determination XIV).
- ❑ **Practice Improvement Funding** – enables dentists to upgrade their practices, particularly in respect of the Disability Discrimination Act; to improve patient safety and access or to introduce new environmental measures (Determination X).
- ❑ **Clinical Audit Allowance** – Since 1 April 2002 it has been **mandatory** that all dentists in Scotland who provide general dental services take part in at least 15 hours of clinical audit during each 3 year period. This allowance, payable for undertaking approved projects in the relevant period is calculated at an hourly rate of **£55.75** (Determination XI).
- ❑ **Continuing Professional Development Allowance** – The standard Continuing Professional Development Allowance is **£97.57** for education sessions of 1-2 hours and **£195.13** for education sessions of 2-3.5 hours. Remote dentists can claim an **additional £97.57** or **£195.13** for the same sessions in recognition of the longer journey that they must make to their nearest postgraduate centre (Determination VII) (**Contact: NHS Education for Scotland or Practitioner Services**).

## PREVENTION

- ❑ **Caries Prevention Scheme** – provides dentists with an enhanced monthly fee (according to the Deprivation Category of the practice postcode) for preventative treatment, including fissure sealing, performed on 6 and 7 year olds in Scotland (Item 41(d) of Determination I).

## REMOTE PRACTITIONERS

- ❑ **Remote Areas Allowance** – a payment of **£3,000** per year to encourage dentists servicing some of the remotest communities to continue practising in these areas (Determination XII).

## VOCATIONAL TRAINERS

- ❑ **Trainers Allowance** - An interim payment of **£2000** was made to all vocational trainers last year while a review of the level of a more permanent grant was ongoing. From 1 August 2003 vocational trainers will receive a grant of **£926** per month (**£11,112** per annum). In addition, vocational trainers will receive a **Vocational Training Practice Allowance of £1,500** per annum (Determinations IV and XIV) (**Contact: NHS Education for Scotland for trainer's allowance and Practitioner Services for Practice Allowance**).

## SENIOR PRACTITIONERS

- ❑ **Seniority Payments** – since 1 April 2003, the gross fee ceiling has been raised allowing senior dentists to earn a potential **£13,100** through seniority payments (previously the maximum was £7,000) (Determination III).

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Information about these grants and allowances can be found in the SDR Determinations and circulars. Any further enquiries should be made to the local PCT or NHS Board unless an alternative is stated above.