



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Health Department
Directorate of Primary Care and Community Care

Primary Care Division
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES

NOTIFICATION OF REVISED BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND FUNDING OF DENTAL CLINICAL AND SPECIAL WASTES

Summary

1. This letter advises NHS Boards of revised arrangements for the management of clinical and special dental wastes, effective from 1 April 2006, to be introduced operationally in a phased programme under the NHS Boards Clinical Waste Consortia Contract framework. Funding for these arrangements will be transferred to NHS Boards following submission of anticipated costs for 2006/07 to the Scottish Executive Health Department.

Background

2. The Dental Action Plan *Improving Oral Health and Modernising NHS Dental Services in Scotland* announced by the Deputy Minister for Health and Community Care on 17 March 2005, set out a commitment to put arrangements in place for the reimbursement of certain key services, including those for dental clinical waste disposal services.

3. Through the Dental Central Contracts Group, a full review of the range of potential options for uplift and disposal of dental wastes in NHS Scotland has been undertaken. This demonstrated that the majority of NHS Boards in Scotland currently have in place robust local arrangements, which already provide clinical waste disposal services to General Dental Practices. These arrangements offer best value through economies of scale and can be adapted to include both clinical and special wastes arising from the delivery of dental care. This will be monitored as part of the implementation of the Action Plan.

12 May 2006

Addresses

For action
Chief Executives,
NHS Boards

For information
Chief Executive,
NHS National Services Scotland

Chief Executive,
NHS Education for Scotland

Director,
Practitioner Services

Enquiries to:

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4. Dental Clinical and Special Wastes included under these arrangements are listed in Section 18 (Wastes from Human and Animal Health Care) of Appendix A of the Consolidated European Waste Catalogue, as outlined in the Special Waste Amendment (Scotland) Regulations: 2004 (SSI 2004/112). Examples include:

- **Low risk clinical wastes:** dressings and swabs, disposables such as gloves, aprons, masks, contaminated wipes, broken glass, blood and contaminated liquids, unrecognisable tissue.
- **High risk clinical wastes:** recognisable body parts, e.g. teeth with or without amalgam/fillings etc, Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy chemicals, used or unused sharps, used or unused drug vials, contaminated metal parts/instruments, highly infectious waste, infected blood.
- **Special wastes:** mercury, amalgam, lead and other “Heavy” metal compounds (including X Ray and Dental photochemicals, fixers & batteries with Silver Cadmium, Lithium and Radioactive Waste.

Action

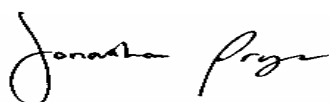
5. NHS Boards are asked to:

- 5.1 meet directly, all related costs for clinical and special waste uplift for dentists who fulfil the requirements for NHS committed practices. (It should be noted that amalgam separators are specifically excluded from these arrangements. Practitioner Services Division of NHS National Services Scotland will provide NHS Boards with details of the dental practices in their area regarded as NHS committed);
- 5.2 offer to dentists who are providing NHS general dental services, but who do not meet the definitions of an NHS committed practice the opportunity to participate in Board waste schemes and invoice them for services provided; and
- 5.3 put in place the structural arrangements attached at **Annex A**.

6. Additionally, to allow the appropriate funding to meet the cost of clinical and special waste uplift to be transferred to NHS Boards unified budgets Boards are asked to advise Mary McCann, Deputy Chief Dental Officer, Room 1ER.09, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3 DG by the end of May 2006 of the expected cost within their area in 2006/07.

I am copying this letter to NHS Board dental leads.

Yours sincerely



DR JONATHAN PRYCE
Head of Primary Care Division

MANAGEMENT OF DENTAL CLINICAL AND SPECIAL WASTES

1. Each NHS Board, working from the SEHD policy on waste management and the segregation scheme identified in NHSScotland Property and Environment Forum's SHTN 3 version 5, should draw up a draft Schedule to identify the quantities of the dental wastes arising per annum in each waste stream, the preferred sizes of the associated waste containers and the preferred frequency of uplift.
2. Each NHS Board working with its Waste Management Officer and Clinical Waste Consortium representative should overview the draft Schedule and confirm the level of service which can be delivered, including the costs per practice per uplift working within the cost structure of Consortia contracts. Where the practice-preferred waste containers and uplift frequency cannot reasonably be delivered for practical operational reasons this should be discussed with the practice and co-ordinated to fit within the Consortia framework structure.
3. Each NHS Board, working with its Waste Management Officer and Clinical Waste Consortium representative, should maintain the agreed Schedule and review requirements on an annual basis. This will form the basis for communication on the arrangements with SEHD, and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), who will have the right to inspect the arrangements. Variations confirming any agreed changes will be formally recorded to ensure a full service and cost audit trail.
4. Each NHS Board, from working with its Waste Management Officer and Clinical Waste Consortium representative to the agreed Schedule, should put operational arrangements in place for the provision of waste containers, the uplift of wastes and the disposal of wastes for the Orange, Yellow and Red healthcare waste streams identified in the segregation scheme, as described in NHSScotland – Property and Environment Forum's SHTN 3 version 5. The Dental Clinical and Special Wastes included under these arrangements shall be any of the wastes listed and identified, as defined in Section 18 (Wastes from Human and Animal Health Care) of Appendix A of the Consolidated European Waste Catalogue, as outlined in the Special Waste Amendment (Scotland) Regulations: 2004 (SSI 2004/112). Please note Healthcare Waste as identified in the segregation scheme may require to be consigned as Special Waste.
5. To ensure security and best value within Consortia economy of scale, the operational arrangements to General Dental practices should comprise the extension of existing NHS Board directly managed in-house facilities and transport services to provide waste containers from a standard range of containers and uplift for disposal and/or recovery dental wastes from the individual practices within the NHS Board area.
6. For most NHS Boards, these wastes will be delivered to the NHS Board Bulk Waste Transfer Station as Healthcare Waste or as Special Waste for transfer to the Consortia Contractor for Bulk disposal/recovery. For certain NHS Boards these wastes should be delivered direct as Healthcare Waste or as Special Waste to the Consortia Contractor for Bulk disposal/recovery.

7. For the NHS Boards without Board directly managed in-house facilities and transport services, the NHS Board should consider providing such directly managed in-house services, or the Consortia Contractor's local transport services, to provide waste containers from a standard range of containers and uplift as Healthcare Waste or as Special Waste for disposal and/or recovery dental wastes from the individual practices within the NHS Board area for Bulk disposal/recovery.
8. For NHS Boards within North (Shetland, Orkney, Western Isles, Highland, Grampian, Tayside and Fife) East (Lothian and Forth Valley) and West (Ayrshire & Arran, Argyll & Clyde, Lanarkshire and Dumfries & Galloway) Consortia, there are already arrangements in place for the majority of general dental practitioners. Most Boards will be able to conclude a Schedule by May 2006 and introduce phased operational services for all dental wastes thereafter. However certain NHS Boards will have to adapt their operational arrangements.
9. The NHS Greater Glasgow Consortium already has a Schedule in use for the disposal of dental clinical wastes and this will be examined and adapted to introduce operational services for the Red stream dental wastes.
10. NHS Borders Consortia should conclude a Schedule by July 31st 2006* and introduce phased operational services for all dental wastes thereafter.
11. The phased programme should be complete no later than July 31st 2006 and practices advised of the proposed service start date to allow them to conclude any arrangements they may already have in place.

ANNEX B

For more information on the arrangements and advice on the segregation scheme the Consortia Contacts are:

- North Consortium – Ken Walker (tel 01224 558732)
- NHS Shetland – Bob Boston (tel 01595 743002)
- NHS Orkney – Jim McGuigan (tel 01856 88247)
- NHS Western Isles – Eric MacDonald (tel 01851 704704)
- NHS Highland – Brian Beattie (tel 01463 704000)
- NHS Grampian – Ken Walker (tel 01224 558732)
- NHS Tayside – Ernie Patullo (tel 01382 423026)
- NHS Fife – interim contact via Jim Leiper (tel 01592 648134)

- East Consortium – Norman Swan (tel 01506 419666 ext 4009)
- NHS Lothian – Norman Swan (tel 01506 419666 ext 4009)
- NHS Forth Valley – Gerald Ferrie (tel 01324 404038)

- West Consortium – Andy Elliot (tel 01294 323585)
- NHS Ayrshire & Arran – Janice Geddes (tel 01563 577022)
Nora Solsbury (tel 01292 513983)
- Former NHS Argyll & Clyde area – David Tierney (tel 01495 505120)
- NHS Lanarkshire – David Browning (tel 01698 245000)
- State Hospital – David Martin (tel 01555 840293)
- NHS Dumfries & Galloway – Chris Lyon (tel 01387 241123)
- Golden Jubilee – Paul Hogg (tel 01546 606568)

- NHS Greater Glasgow Consortium – John Green (tel 0141 211 3830)

- NHS Borders – David McLuckie – (tel 01896 826370)

- NHSScotland Property and Environment Forum – for SHTN 3 version 5 –
Eddie McLaughlan (tel 0141 332 3455)

The NHSScotland – Property and Environment Forum’s SHTN 3 version 5 is under compilation and is planned to be available shortly on the SHOW web site. In the interim draft copies highlighting the segregation scheme are available from Consortia Chairpersons.