

Dear Colleague

## GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES

### CHANGES TO THE CONTINUING CARE AND CAPITATION PERIOD

#### Summary

1. This letter advises NHS Boards and Practitioner Services of an agreement reached with the dental professions' representative body to extend the duration of a continuing care and capitation arrangement with effect from 1 April 2009.

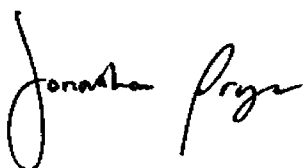
2. This will be the first stage in a two step change to continuing care and capitation arrangements with the intention to make registration with a dentist non time limited with effect from 1 April 2010. There will be further discussion with the profession about the implementation of this second step.

#### Action

3. NHS Boards and Practitioner Services are asked to note the changes to the continuing care and capitation period which are contained in the Memorandum to this letter.

4. NHS Boards are asked to **urgently** distribute copies of the Memorandum to this letter, supplies of which are being sent under separate cover, to all dentists on their lists.

Yours sincerely



DR JONATHAN PRYCE  
Deputy Director

20 March 2009

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#### Addresses

For action  
Chief Executives,  
NHS Boards

Director,  
Practitioner Services

For information  
Chief Executive,  
NHS National Services Scotland

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#### Enquiries to:

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**DENTISTS  
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE  
GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES**

**CHANGES TO THE CONTINUING CARE AND CAPITATION PERIOD**

1. This Memorandum advises dentists of an agreement reached with the dental professions' representative body to extend the duration of a continuing care and capitation arrangement with effect from 1 April 2009.
2. This will be the first stage in a two step change to continuing care and capitation arrangements with the intention to make registration with a dentist non time limited. There will be further discussion with the profession about the implementation of this second step.
3. The period at which a patient's registration with a dentist under NHS arrangements lapses, if the patient has not seen the dentist since registering or re-registering, is being extended from 36 to 48 months for **all** patients registered with a dentist on 1 April 2009. This means that no patient registrations will lapse between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010.
4. It is the intention that from 1 April 2010 the registration period of **all** patients registered with a dentist under a continuing care and capitation arrangement at that date will be made non-time limited. This would mean that from 1 April 2010 all existing patients and all new patients will be registered for life and registration arrangements will no longer lapse after a set period. Further information about this change will be issued nearer the time.
5. Dentists will continue to be entitled to de-register any patients that they no longer wish to treat under NHS arrangements.
6. A copy of the NHS (General Dental Services) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2009, which bring the change at paragraph 2 above into effect, will be sent once they are available.
7. Any enquiries arising from this Memorandum should be taken up with your NHS Board.

Scottish Government Health Directorates  
20 March 2009