To all General Dental Practitioners

Dear Colleague

Washer Disinfector (WD)

My purpose in writing is to offer an opportunity to practitioners to apply for a washer disinfector to be provided from funds being made available by Scottish Government to health boards.

As you will be aware, a requirement for decontamination compliance is to use a washer disinfector as part of the process and I know that many practitioners have already installed them.

If however you do not already have a WD and would like to be considered for this programme please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to the address on the form no later than 14th November 2012. We will purchase as many as possible from the £2 million available and will apply a system of allocating the WDs according to NHS commitment and previous funding history. A short guidance note is attached to help in your application and to tell your board what your requirements are.

More detailed information on the project will be made available when the responses to the questionnaires have been collated.

Yours sincerely

Margie Taylor
Chief Dental Officer

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Guidance Note
Washer Disinfector Model Choice

General
Choosing a washer disinfector that suits your practice will depend on the number of instruments you need to process on a daily basis. This will relate to how many surgeries you run and how many patients you normally see.
In an effort to use a washer disinfector is used efficiently and effectively it is important to
- Use as few cycles as possible in a day
- Ensure you don’t run out of instruments

Choosing a Benchtop or an Underbench Model
This is intended as a basic guide for the purpose of this scoping exercise. A more detailed capacity calculation can be done when the exact specifications of models are known.

Benchtop Models
This is the smaller of the two options. Their capacity is significantly less than the underbench models. The cycle time is also shorter.
They do take up valuable work surface area. However, it is possible to mount them on a plinth under a work surface if space is a problem.
A general guide would be that these models would be suitable for a one or two surgery practice. They might serve three surgeries with low patient numbers but an increased number of cycles would be required.

Underbench Models
In terms of size these are similar to domestic dishwashers. The exact dimensions depend on the make. The capacity is more than twice that of benchtop models.
Practices with three or more surgeries are likely to need this capacity.
These models have a longer cycle time. Consideration must also be given to the time it takes and the number of instruments used to get to full load. The need for extra instruments needs to be balanced against the risk of running out and the cost of running more cycles with the washer disinfector at less than capacity.
WD Questionnaire

Practice Name…………………………………………… Principal / Partner………………………………………………

Practice Address …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

Telephone Number ………………………………………. Email address………………………………………………

Please circle answers

1. Do you have a local decontamination unit? Yes No

   If yes, answer question 2. If no, return the form to the contact below

2. Do you have washer disinfecter installed in the LDU? Yes No

   If yes, return the completed form. If no, answer questions 3 and 4

3. Do you have a space designated for a washer disinfecter in the LDU? Yes No

4. Which model of washer disinfecter do you think you would need? Under bench model Bench top model

NB Please read the guidance attached before answering question 4 if you are unsure
5. Has your practice received Scottish Dental Access Initiative funding in the last 3 years

   Yes                                                 No

6. In relation to income generated in the whole practice from April to March 2012 please indicate what % of that was from provision of NHS care

   %NHS....................................  %PVT........................................

7. Excluding SDAI, how much capital funding have you received from your Health Board towards your LDU and decontamination and equipment since 2007.

   £ ........................................

Please return to Insert HB contact details for return........................................by 14th November 2012 at the latest