

Dear Colleague

## **GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES**

### **NHS (General Dental Services) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016 - Applications to the NHS Board Dental List: Mandatory Training Requirement**

#### **Summary**

1. PCA(D)(2016)3 advised NHS Boards of changes brought into effect by the NHS (General Dental Services) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016.
2. This advice included that from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016, there was now a mandatory training requirement for dentists applying to join the dental list in Scotland for the first time, those returning to clinical practice within 5 years, and those returning after 5 years or more.
3. The Annex to this letter provides Boards with more advice regarding these changes.

26 April 2016

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#### **Addresses**

##### For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

Director, Practitioner Services

Chief Executive,  
NHS Education for Scotland

##### For information

Chief Executive,  
NHS National Services Scotland

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#### **Enquiries to:**

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NHS:  
PCA(D)(2016)5

**Action**

4. NHS Boards are asked to note this further advice and take whatever action they consider appropriate locally to publicise this guidance.

Yours sincerely,

MARGIE TAYLOR  
Chief Dental Officer

## **NHS (General Dental Services) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016 - Applications to the NHS Board Dental List: Mandatory Training Requirement**

### **Further Advice from Scottish Government to NHS Boards**

#### *Overview*

1. The Scottish Government has introduced a number of amendments that affect the process for dentists applying to join the dental list in Scotland.
2. From 1st April 2016, the Scottish Government has amended Part 1A of Schedule of the NHS (General Dental Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2010 ("the 2010 Regulations") such that for dentists applying to join the dental list in Scotland for the first time, or where a dentist is returning to clinical work after a break of up to 5 years, they must satisfactorily complete a mandatory training programme, proof of which would be a certificate issued from NHS Education for Scotland (NES).
3. A further amendment also introduces a similar provision for dentists returning to clinical work after a period of five years or more, requiring them to successfully complete return to work training, confirmation of which would be an appropriate certificate issued by NES.

#### *Details of the Mandatory Training Programme*

4. The mandatory training programme will be run by NES and will comprise a clinically-related part 1 (2 days) and non-clinical part 2 (1 day). The component elements that comprise each part will be available on the NES website at:

<http://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/education-and-training/by-discipline/dentistry/areas-of-education/professional-development.aspx>

The applicant will be required to pass a Test of Knowledge (ToK) assessment before the appropriate certificate will be issued by NES.

5. The mandatory training will cost £300 per day, with the ToK at an additional £100. The applicant will be responsible for meeting the costs of the training and assessment.
6. It is expected that mandatory training courses will run four times per year in July, October, January and April. This is subject to confirmation from NES. For further information, please see the NES website and if you wish, email [InductionPDC@nes.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:InductionPDC@nes.scot.nhs.uk)

#### *Dentists Applying to the Dental List for the First Time*

7. The new provision means that dental applicants to sub-part A of the first part of the dental list in Scotland (i.e. those wishing to provide General Dental Services) will require a certificate from NHS Education for Scotland certifying that they have successfully completed mandatory training in the content and application of these 2010 Regulations.

8. On successful completion of vocational training in the NHS in Scotland, a dentist on applying to join sub-part A will be deemed to have undertaken the equivalent of mandatory training, as the VT programme covers the relevant issues.

9. All other dental applicants who apply to join this part of the dental list in Scotland for the first time will have to successfully complete mandatory training as follows:

*i. Those working in primary dental care within the rest of the UK.*

Applicants to the dental list in Scotland who are currently working in a primary care dental setting in the rest of the UK will have automatic exemption from the first part of mandatory training, but will be required to successfully complete the second part. The first part of the training covers those matters of which we would expect practitioners to have experience through working in the UK.

*ii. Those not currently working within primary dental care within the UK.*

Dental applicants to the dental list in Scotland who are not currently working in a primary care dental setting in the UK will require to successfully complete both parts 1 and 2 of the mandatory training programme.

#### *Providers Returning to Clinical Work*

10. Dentists who return to sub-part A of the dental list within a period of 12 months would not be required to complete mandatory training. This is a working assumption which will be reflected in the Regulations at the next available legislative opportunity. Boards at their discretion may wish to vary this period depending on the precise circumstances of each listing application.

11. For those dentists returning to clinical work after 12 months, but less than 5 years the appropriate test is whether the person has been supported by NES as part of the Return to Work and Keeping in Touch programmes. If the person has been supported in this way, then they will be eligible to return to the dental list following the successful completion of a one day refresher course. For those who are not able to evidence this level of support, then they will have to complete parts 1 and 2 of the mandatory training programme, and sit the appropriate assessment, as set down at paragraph 4.

12. For those dentists returning to work after 5 years or more, then they should be supported by the Return to Work and Keeping in Touch Programmes. Subject to confirmation that this is the case, then they would qualify through the successful completion of a one day refresher course.

#### *Mechanics for Listing Arrangement*

13. Boards should be aware that all other procedures for listing can continue concurrent with the requirement for mandatory training. For example, an applicant for the dental list can proceed with references etc. subject to successful completion of mandatory training. On completion of this training the applicant will be issued with the appropriate certificate, which will then be provided to the relevant NHS Board as evidence that this part of the process has been completed.

*Assistants*

14. NHS Boards should note that at present this provision only applies to those applying to join sub-part A of the first part of the dental list. Dentists applying to join the second part of the dental list are not covered by this new provision. A further amendment will be made to the 2010 Regulations to mirror this provision for assistants at the next legislative opportunity.