

NHS:
PCA(D)(2014)2

Health and Social Care Integration Directorate
Chief Dental Officer and Dentistry Division



Dear Colleague

GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES

NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR CLINICAL AUDIT

Summary

1. The attached letter clarifies the position for dentists regarding the new arrangements for clinical audit.

Action

2. NHS Boards are asked to **urgently** issue the attached letter to all dentists on their dental lists.

Yours sincerely

MARGIE TAYLOR
Chief Dental Officer

17 January 2014

Addresses

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To: All General Dental Practitioners



Our ref: NHS: PCA(D)(2014)2
17 January 2014

Dear Dentist

New arrangements for clinical audit

Further to my letter of 9 July 2013, this letter is to update you on progress of the new arrangements for clinical audit in the audit cycle with commencement date 1 August 2013. I had agreed to improve and extend the range of activities which will count towards a dentist's clinical audit requirements and therefore towards meeting their NHS terms of service under the NHS (General Dental Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2010.

Current activities include;

- **Traditional Clinical audit** – NHS Education for Scotland are currently improving the guidance and templates so that audit activity can be managed utilising the NES Portal and will be virtually paper-free. This is intended to be completed by the middle of February 2014.
- **Significant event analysis** – improvements will be made to guidance and templates mirroring those for clinical audit.

The additional activities will include;

- **Practice-based research** – NES are working with the administrative team of the Scottish Dental Practice Based Research Network (SDPBRN) to give them access to portal in order to log research activity which investigates the quality of dental care. This will be eligible for up to 5 hours credit in any three year audit cycle. I believe this gives practice-based research an equal footing with other audit and practice improvement activity. It is planned that this can be completed by the end of February 2014
- **Peer review** - NHS Education for Scotland are currently developing guidance and templates so that peer review activity can be managed utilising the portal. It is intended that this work will be completed by late August 2014.

- **Scottish Patient Safety Programme (SPSP)** – I hope that we can learn a lot about improvement in patient safety in dentistry from this programme. The SPSP Team are keen to commence this work in late autumn 2014 and I will keep you informed of progress.

Many people have praised the Practice Support Manual as being at the heart of many practice improvement and audit activities and I would recommend you use it as much as you can in your practice improvement planning.

We are also investigating the possibility of triggering the payment of the Clinical Audit Allowance electronically, similar to the current process for the Continuing Professional Development Allowance.

As you are aware the current audit cycle commenced on 1 August 2013 and is due to end on 31 July 2016. Although this is some time away, in order to ensure that you meet your audit requirements you may wish to start your audit planning now. Should, at the end of the audit cycle, your NHS Board believe that you are not compliant with your terms of service under GDS Regulations, please remember that the sanction open to them is referral for disciplinary procedures .

I hope you will find the extended range of audit opportunities interesting.

Yours sincerely

MARGIE TAYLOR
Chief Dental Officer