



23 December 2020

Dear colleague,

You will be aware that from Boxing Day, mainland Scotland will enter Level 4 COVID restrictions and you may be wondering what the impact of this will be on your dental practice. For those practices which were previously in a Level 4 area the situation remains as it was then ie, there will be no change to dental service provision during Level 4 restrictions. The full range of NHS care remains available for dentists to provide to their patients and out of hours services remain in place as before through NHS24 and the urgent dental care centres. However, dentists should not undertake any facial aesthetic treatments as this is not essential healthcare.

The context for no change is that dental teams have reorganised their practices to ensure COVID-safe working arrangements and patient flow by physical distancing, fallow time between aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) and reducing the number of available appointments. NHS Scotland will continue to provide PPE for dental teams to allow them to offer AGPs safely. Additionally the national infection prevention and control guidance and standard operating procedures for dental practices remain in place and can be found at <https://www.scottishdental.org/professionals/covid-19-summary-page/>

Financial support of NHS dental practices at its current level will remain in place. It is perhaps inevitable that there may be some patients who would prefer to defer their dental appointment with Level 4 restrictions in place and so practice clinical activity may be reduced and we will be mindful of this during our modelling of practice remobilisation.

This has been a very testing year for all members of the dental team and on remobilising you have risen to the challenge to provide your patients with dental care in a COVID-safe environment. Vaccination seems to offer us the best hope going forward and I am aware that many dentists have completed the online vaccination training on TURAS, so they are available to support the mass vaccination programme in the New Year.



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Can I thank you and your team for your resilience and support over the past months and wish you the very best over the festive period and look forward to working with you in the New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Ferris  
**Chief Dental Officer**