

Welcome to NES Dental Clinical Effectiveness

Welcome to the June 2020 edition of the Dental Clinical Effectiveness Newsletter. In this edition you will find details on the work Clinical Effectiveness has been undertaking to provide support for dental practice during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Prof Jan Clarkson

SDCEP - The Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme [www.sdcep.org.uk]

TRiADS - Translation Research in a Dental Setting [www.triads.org.uk]

SDPBRN - The Scottish Dental Practice Based Research Network [www.sdpbrn.org.uk]

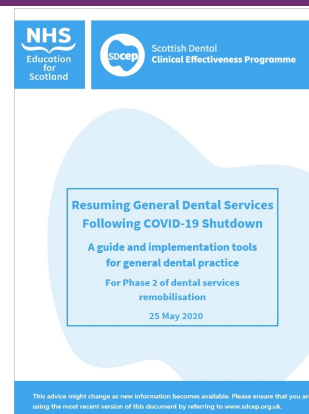
QliPT - Quality Improvement in Practice Training

SDCEP Practice recovery toolkit

On 20 May 2020, the Chief Dental Officer of Scotland issued a letter that described a phased approach to the remobilisation of dental services after closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Phase 2 of this approach is concerned with the restarting of dental practices. SDCEP has developed a Practice Recovery Toolkit. The aim of this resource is to provide advice and implementation tools to support primary care dental practices specifically concerning Phase 2 of remobilisation.

sdcep.org.uk/published-guidance/covid-19-practice-recovery/

Within the first week of publication, the toolkit webpage had been viewed over 36,000 times. Please look out for updates as resources in the toolkit might be amended if new information becomes available or as circumstances change.

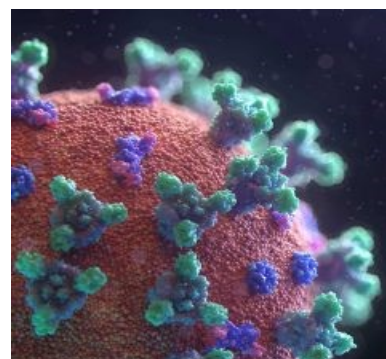


Acute Dental Problems during COVID-19 Pandemic

On 30th March, SDCEP issued Management of Acute Dental Problems During COVID-19 Pandemic, a guide based on existing SDCEP guidance that describes modified management of commonly presenting oral conditions for use during the COVID-19 pandemic. Drugs for the Management of Dental Problems During COVID-19 Pandemic was issued as a supplement with more detailed information for providing advice to patients about analgesia and for drug prescribing.

The management guide and updated drugs supplement are available at sdcep.org.uk/published-guidance/acute-dental-problems-covid-19/ are now also included via the SDCEP Dental Companion app sdcep.org.uk/published-guidance/sdcep-dental-companion-app/.

SDCEP also provided checklists to support practices when closing and during closure. A similar checklist for reopening is now available within the Practice Recovery Toolkit.



Rapid review of international recovery plans

Professors Jan Clarkson and Craig Ramsay led a group of researchers and clinicians from a range of UK institutions to conduct a rapid review of guidance on re-opening dental services closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This rapid review collates and summarises recommendations from the various sources identified within five themes relevant to the re-opening of dental services: practice preparation, personal protective equipment, management of the clinical area, dental procedures, and cleaning and disinfection.

The rapid review is entitled “Recommendations for the re-opening of dental services: a rapid review of international sources” and can be accessed at oralhealth.cochrane.org/news/recommendations-re-opening-dental-services-rapid-review-international-sources.

SDCEP COVID-19 Guide Findings from a National Survey

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, SDCEP published a guide for the Management of Acute Dental Problems During COVID-19 Pandemic including a drug prescribing supplement.

To support SDCEP develop further resources for dental practices during the COVID-19 pandemic, a national survey asking for dentists’ views about additional information that should be included in the guide and the key advice that would be most helpful for patients was conducted. Four hundred and twenty-six completed questionnaires were submitted. For a report see triads.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/20-04-30-SDCEP-COVID-Guide-Survey-Results.pdf.

Homeworking and redeployment

Currently due to the COVID-19 pandemic and government guidance on social distancing, NES staff are now working from home. This has brought new challenges and adjustments to the way we work.

Business Support staff from Clinical Effectiveness were amongst 170 NES staff redeployed to the COVID-19 Accelerated Recruitment Portal. Thousands of students and returning health and social care workers came forward to support the NHS and the redeployment of staff enabled NES to process applicants as quickly and effectively as possible.

This has currently resulted in 6779 candidates with all checks complete and 3950 candidates still in progress. Due to such impressive applicant numbers, the recruitment campaign has been paused and some redeployed staff are now assisting with recruitment for the Test and Protect scheme.



CAREER

CAREER is a longitudinal research project that is being carried out by the Universities of Dundee and St Andrews in collaboration with NES. Its purpose is to better understand how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting early career dental professionals’ preparedness for practice, health and well-being. The findings will help inform the provision of support and training to current and future cohorts of trainees. Invitations to take part in CAREER will be sent to undergraduate and postgraduate trainees in June 2020.

Quality Improvement in Practice Training

Our NES Quality Improvement in Practice Training (QIIP) team have been delivering Infection Control and Prevention (IPC) training to dental teams across Scotland for 13 years. The team are currently working from home due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This has been a challenge for a team normally out every day delivering in-practice training. Having identified that there was real need for updated IPC and Covid-19 related education, the team were able to support this through the development of interactive GoTo webinars.

The QIIP Team, with support from NES Digital and other colleagues, very quickly became proficient in setting up these sessions using the available technology. Initially NES advertised two webinars to gauge interest - there were 1700 participants on a waiting list within days of the advert. The first session was delivered on 14 April and 14 webinars were delivered in total.

As we move into the next phase of COVID-19, General Dental Practices will be expected to return to work. The Practice Recovery Toolkit developed by SDCEP is a guide for reopening practices for Phase 2. The QIIP team developed a webinar to accompany this guide and have already delivered 4 webinars in one week which had over 2,750 participants. To date the team have now delivered a total of 18 webinars to over 6,450 participants. Details of further Webinars for this phase are available on Portal.

What does my patient think during COVID-19? A twitter analysis

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, on the 23rd of March 2020 the British Dental Association and UK Chief Dental Officers advised dentists to temporarily close their doors for all but emergency cases. On 30th March, SDCEP released a guide for dentists to define dental emergency treatments and care pathways.

In this rapidly changing environment, timely information is critical to guide evidence-informed decision making. Understanding of the public experience of dental services should form part of that decision making. We are undertaking a social media analysis of twitter communications to understand the public's dental problems and awareness of what to do about such problems. This work will inform preparations for remobilisation of dental services. [triads.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-Dental-Twitter-Analysis-Protocol_v4.pdf](https://www.triads.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-Dental-Twitter-Analysis-Protocol_v4.pdf)

@NesDental Twitter

In December 2019, NES created a Dental Twitter page. The twitter page is a valuable source for dentistry updates especially during the current pandemic. Please follow us to ensure that you are kept up to date with all developments and guidelines at twitter.com/NesDental