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Sent to:
Dental Directors
Training Nurse Providers
PECOS Authorisers

Date 25th June 2021
Our Ref PC/NPA/2021-06-25

Dear Colleague

TRAINEE DENTAL NURSES AND PPE PROVISION

The Dental Nurse training providers in Scotland are working to re-establish Dental Nurse training and assessment from August 2021. The trainee Dental Nurses are a resource that the NHS relies on, to help deliver future dental care and provide the NHS dental workforce of the future, and their practical experience is gained in NHS Dental Practices throughout Scotland.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) had become more important during the pandemic to provide a safe and effective method to help protect staff and patients from the spread of coronavirus and the PPE has been in high demand reducing availability and the cost had grown earlier in the pandemic. NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) National Procurement has sought to ensure robust supply of PPE to ensure that the NHS could deliver the acute care required throughout the pandemic and had been instructed to provide a supply to facilitate standing back up primary care services including NHS Dental Practices. As instructed by the Cabinet Secretary this PPE has been supplied free of charge to the dental practices since the re-opening of the dental practices, initially in limited supply on a "push" model with assistance from the territorial Boards. This has evolved now on an online ordering scheme with direct delivery to dental practices across Scotland. A constantly improving supply to the dental practices culminated this week with another 50% increase in the supply of PPE to Dental Practices in Scotland. Recently the Cabinet Secretary has committed to this free PPE for the rest of this financial year (until the end of March 2022).

To enable the re-establishment of Dental Nurse Training, National Procurement are including an enhanced allocation to those dental practices engaged in hosting those Dental Nurse trainees. This enhanced allocation will be added to the dental practice allocation through the NHS Boards authorisation process (through PECOS) as part of the dental practices Free PPE allocation. The additional PPE will be available from the initiation of the training programmes.

I am happy to answer any questions you or your teams have relating to this announcement.

Kind regards.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'W. Paul Cushley'.

PAUL CUSHLEY
Director of Dentistry



Chair Keith Redpath
Chief Executive Mary Morgan

NHS National Services Scotland is the common name of the Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service.