

E: NHSdentistry@gov.scot

1 September 2022

Dear Colleague,

Legionella Risk Assessment: Publication of SDCEP Guidance

My purpose in writing is to make you aware of updated guidance now published by the Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme (SDCEP) that requires a completed Legionella Risk Assessment (LRA), a written control scheme and an action plan if there is a concern about legionella in dental practice settings. This will be included in the Practice Support Manual www.psm.sdcep.org.uk.

On 7 March 2022, PCA(D)(2022)(4) advised of a one-off sustainability payment to qualifying NHS dental practices; this was paid to practices in the March paid April schedule. While the use of the funding was entirely at the discretion of the practice, we also advised that this funding could be used for a LRA.

We realise that many practices have been waiting for further guidance and clarification before they completed an LRA. Particular attention should be paid to the section on dental unit water lines which advises that there should be written procedures, for each dental chair, for minimising the risk of growth of bacteria in dental unit water lines.

In the Combined Practice Inspection (CPI), there is already a section on the LRA at 2 C14 'legionella risk assessment management policy and procedure including risk assessment'. For those with a CPI booked in the coming months, we understand it may be difficult to have an LRA conducted in time. However, we expect that as of 1st April 2023, practices should be fully compliant.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Ferris
Chief Dental Officer