



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Health Department
Directorate of Service Policy & Planning

NHS:
2002 PCA(D)8

St Andrew's House
Regent Road
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES

RETIREMENT AGE FOR PRINCIPAL DENTISTS

Summary

1. This letter advises Primary Care Trusts and Island NHS Boards of an extension in the retirement age for principal dentists with effect from 1 April 2003.

Background

2. Currently under regulation 12 (removal on grounds of age) of the NHS (General Dental Services) (Scotland) Regulations 1996 when a dentist reaches the age of 65 he/she is no longer permitted to practice as a principal dentist.

3. Under regulation 12 a Primary Care Trust/Health Board is required to remove from its list the name of any dentist who has attained the age of 65 during the period of 12 months ending on 1st April in that year. A Primary Care Trust/Health Board is required to give any dentist whose name is to be removed from the list notice in writing to that effect not less than 12 months, nor more than 13 months, before the date on which his/her name is to be removed. A further notice of not less than 3 months, nor more than 4, must be given before the effective date.

4. Agreement has been reached with the professions' representatives that the retirement age for principal dentists shall be extended to age 70 with effect from 1 April 2003.

5. The NHS (General Dental Services) (Scotland) Regulations 1996 will be amended to bring this change into effect. Further information will be sent to Primary Care Trusts/Island NHS Boards when the Amending Regulations are laid.

16 December 2002

Addresses

For action
Chief Executives,
Primary Care NHS Trusts
and Island NHS Boards

For information
Chief Executives,
Mainland NHS Boards

Chief Executive,
Common Services Agency

Director,
Practitioner Services

Enquiries to:

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6. Primary Care Trusts and Island NHS Boards are asked to:

6.1 note the extension in the retirement age for principal dentists from 65 to 70 years of age from 1 April 2003; and

6.2 contact any dentists who have been given notice that their names will be removed from its dental list on 1 April 2003 to advise them that this removal will no longer take place.

7. Copies of the Memorandum to this letter are being sent under separate cover for **urgent** distribution to all dentists on Primary Care Trust/Island NHS Board lists.

Yours sincerely

DR HAMISH WILSON
Primary Care Division

**DENTISTS
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES**

RETIREMENT AGE FOR PRINCIPAL DENTISTS

1. This Memorandum advises dentists of an extension in the retirement age for principal dentists with effect from 1 April 2003.
2. Currently under regulation 12 (removal on grounds of age) of the NHS (General Dental Services) (Scotland) Regulations 1996 when a dentist reaches the age of 65 he/she is no longer permitted to practice as a principal dentist.
3. Under regulation 12 a Primary Care Trust/Health Board is required to remove from its list the name of any dentist who has attained the age of 65 during the period of 12 months ending on 1st April in that year. A Primary Care Trust/Health Board is required to give any dentist whose name is to be removed from the list notice in writing to that effect not less than 12 months, nor more than 13 months, before the date on which his/her name is to be removed. A further notice of not less than 3 months, nor more than 4, must be given before the effective date.
4. Agreement has been reached with the professions' representatives that the retirement age for principal dentists shall be extended to age 70 with effect from 1 April 2003.
5. Primary Care Trusts/Island NHS Boards have been instructed to contact any dentists who have been given notice that their names will be removed from their dental lists on 1 April 2003 to advise them that this removal will no longer take place. If you have been advised that your name will be removed from the dental list of your Primary Care Trust/Island NHS Board with effect from 1 April 2003 on the grounds of age and the relevant Trust/Board does not contact you regarding your retirement you should contact them.
6. The NHS (General Dental Services) (Scotland) Regulations 1996 will be amended to bring this change into effect. Further information will be sent to Primary Care Trusts/Island NHS Boards when the Amending Regulations are laid.

Enquiries

7. Any enquiries arising from this Memorandum should be taken up with your Primary Care Trust/Island NHS Board.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE HEALTH DEPARTMENT
December 2003