

Dear Colleague

GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION OF EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT ALLOWANCE
2. REVISED FORMS GP17, GP17(O) AND GP17PR
3. REVISED FORM GP14

Summary

1. This letter advises of changes in entitlement to free NHS dental treatment as a result of the introduction of income related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA(IR)).

Action

2. NHS Boards and Practitioner Services are asked to note the contents of the Memorandum to this letter.
3. Forms GP17, GP17(O) and GP17PR are being revised to reflect the new ESA(IR). Supplies of the revised forms, which can be identified by the revision 10/08, will be issued to NHS Boards in due course for onward distribution to dentists by 20 October 2008. The current versions of the GP17, GP17(O) and GP17PR should not be used after 27 October and stocks should be destroyed as soon as possible after that date.
4. A revised version of the GP14 will not be available for 27 October 2008. The current version of the GP14 will require to be used until stocks of the revised form are received. Further information about this will be issued in due course.

8 October 2008

Addresses

For action
Chief Executives,
NHS Boards

Director,
Practitioner Services

For information
Chief Executive,
NHS National Services Scotland

Enquiries to:

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5. Copies of the Memorandum to this letter are being sent under separate cover for **urgent** distribution to all dentists on NHS Board dental lists.

Yours sincerely

DR JONATHAN PRYCE
Deputy Director

**DENTISTS
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES**

- 1. INTRODUCTION OF EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT ALLOWANCE**
- 2. REVISED FORMS GP17, GP17(O) AND GP17PR**
- 3. REVISED FORM GP14**

1. This Memorandum advises of changes in entitlement to free NHS dental treatment as a result of the introduction of income related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA(IR)) from 27 October 2008.

Employment and Support Allowance

2. Currently, a number of people who are incapable of work receive Income Support which gives them and their families' entitlement to free NHS dental treatment. Some who are incapable of work receive Incapacity Benefit alone which does not automatically entitle them to free NHS dental treatment but they may seek help through the NHS Low Income Scheme. From 27 October 2008 ESA will be introduced and will replace Incapacity Benefit and Income Support based on incapacity or disability.

3. ESA will consist of an income related and a contributory element. For new claimants Income Support will be replaced by ESA(IR) and Incapacity Benefit will be replaced by contributory ESA. Only those in receipt of income related ESA will be automatically entitled to free NHS dental treatment.

4. Existing claimants will be migrated to ESA over time to bring all claimants under the one regime. In the meantime these patients will continue to be entitled to free NHS dental treatment on the basis of being in receipt of Income Support.

Revised Forms GP17, GP17(O) AND GP17PR

5. Forms GP17, GP17(O) and GP17PR are being revised to reflect the new ESA(IR). Supplies of the revised forms, which can be identified by the revision 10/08, will be issued by NHS Boards in due course. The current versions of the GP17, GP17(O) and GP17PR should not be used after 27 October and stocks should be destroyed as soon as possible after that date.

Revised Form GP14

6. A revised version of the GP14 will not be available for 27 October 2008. The current version of the GP14 will require to be used until stocks of the revised form are received. Further information about this will be issued in due course.

Enquiries

7. Any enquiries arising from this Memorandum should be taken up with your NHS Board.

Scottish Government Health Directorates
8 October 2008