



Dear Colleague

A SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION ON THE ORAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Summary

1. This letter advises NHS Boards and Practitioner Services of the publication of the Oral Health Improvement Plan.
2. The document can be found at:

<http://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781788512893>

Action

3. NHS Boards are asked to:
 - 3.1 note the information in the Memorandum to this letter; and
 - 3.2 issue the Memorandum to this letter to all dentists and dental bodies corporate on their dental lists.

Yours sincerely

MARGIE TAYLOR
Chief Dental Officer

24 January 2018

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

Director, Practitioner Services

For information

Chief Executive,
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Chief Executive,
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**DENTISTS/DENTAL BODIES CORPORATE
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES**

**A SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION ON THE ORAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT
PLAN (OHIP)**

Summary

1. This Memorandum advises of the publication of the Oral Health Improvement Plan (OHIP) on 24 January 2018.

2. The plan can be found at:

<http://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781788512893>

3. A short guide of the plan can be found at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/01/3612>

Background

4. Following a consultation exercise on the future of oral health in Scotland, the Scottish Government today published the Oral Health Improvement Plan (OHIP). The plan sets the direction of travel for oral health improvement for the next generation and has a strong focus on reducing oral health inequalities, moving to a preventive based approach for NHS dentistry and meeting the needs of the ageing population.

Oral Health Improvement Plan – Key Actions

5. We will introduce a preventive care pathway and an Oral Health Risk Assessment (OHRA). In time, all adult patients will receive an OHRA on a regular basis with intervening reviews between assessments. Each patient will receive a personalised care plan based on an assessment of the level of risk to their oral health.

6. The Childsmile Programme will be supplemented with community-led initiatives supported by a Challenge Fund, which will allow our partners in the third sector to bid for resources for projects aimed at supporting communities to improve their oral health.

7. The new domiciliary care arrangements will allow for an appropriately experienced practitioner to be assigned to a care home to provide routine oral health care to care home residents. These practitioners will work in partnership with care home staff to ensure the maintenance of good oral health and hygiene.

8. We recognise the pressures faced by secondary care, and will introduce plans to relocate some treatments away from secondary care towards primary care where the skills of local practitioners can meet the need. We will introduce an accreditation system where practitioners with enhanced skills will be able to register on a list with their NHS Board to provide certain treatments.

Oral Health Improvement Plan – Implementation

9. The OHIP is an ambitious programme of work which we hope will make a significant contribution to improving the oral health of the population. We are fully committed to realising the ambitions set out within this plan. We recognise, however, that what we have set out is a combination of short-medium and long-term goals. We will ensure that as plans are put in place to take forward these actions patient care is maintained and businesses remain viable.

10. In the immediate future the Chief Dental Officer (CDO) will be working with a range of experts to develop the plans toward implementation. The CDO will also host a second series of roadshows to allow for further discussion with the profession on our plans for implementation.

Enquiries

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

Scottish Government Population Health Directorate
24 January 2018