



Dear Colleague

COVID VACCINATION PROGRAMME - 2020/21

Summary

1. This circular advises NHS Boards of the opportunity to involve NHS dental contractors in the Covid-19 vaccination programme.

Action

2. NHS Boards are asked to:
- note the contents of this Memorandum;
 - issue the Memorandum to this letter to all dentists and DBsC on their dental lists.

Yours sincerely,

TOM FERRIS
Chief Dental Officer

30 November 2020

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards
Directors of Dentistry, Dental
Leads, Immunisation Leads

For information

Chief Executive,
NHS National Services Scotland

Chief Executive,
NHS Education for Scotland

Directors of Dentistry
Director, Practitioner Services

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**DENTISTS/DENTAL BODIES CORPORATE
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES**

COVID VACCINATION PROGRAMME 2020/21

1. This Memorandum advises NHS dental contractors (dentists and dental bodies corporate) of the arrangements and fees for participation in **2020-21 COVID-19 Vaccination Programme**.

Background

2. The Scottish Government recognises that the need to maintain good infection prevention & control practices and appropriate physical distancing measures has created challenges that prevent General Practitioners from being the sole contractor in the delivery of the Covid-19 vaccination programme.
3. Therefore, Health Boards and Integration Authorities will take the lead role in providing the Covid-19 immunisation programme for 2020/21. As part of these arrangements, we have advised Boards that NHS dental contractors may have the capacity to opt in and to contribute to the vaccination programme. This means that dental practices may be contacted by their Health Board about possible participation in the programme.
4. Section 36 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 provides that dentists in Scotland may provide vaccinations and immunisations as set out in the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 (as amended). Section 12 of the Act also gives Ministers the power to indemnify or make arrangements to indemnify those authorised to contribute to the Covid-19 programme.

Immunisation Delivery

5. Participation in the Covid-19 immunisation programme, will be agreed locally by Boards and Area Dental Committees, depending on the overall requirements to deliver the programme. It is **not** mandatory for NHS dental contractors to participate and exact arrangements will vary between Boards. The target groups will be detailed in the upcoming CMO letter. The CMO letter will also contain clinical arrangements for the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme.
6. Dental Practitioners will be located at a vaccination hub to undertake this work and will be expected to explain the vaccine to patients, gaining their consent and to then administer the vaccination.
7. NHS dental contractors who decide to opt-in on the request of their NHS Board will be advised about local arrangements for the immunisation programme, including provision of appropriate PPE, in line guidance on the use of PPE for immunisation and vaccinations, stock control and distribution of vaccines and appropriate monitoring arrangements.

Timing

8. Health Boards are required to deliver the Covid-19 immunisation programme from early December. It is envisaged that a large proportion of the vaccine will be delivered in early 2021.

Remuneration

9. To enable participation of NHS dental contractors and to maximise Health Boards use of NHS dental contractors contribution to the vaccination programme, a **sessional fee will be offered to contractors participating in the 2020/21 Covid-19 immunisation programme set at £230 per contractor**. The Scottish Government has agreed this fee with the Scottish Dental Practice Committee of BDA Scotland. Payments will be made through your NHS Board.

Training

10. There will be online training being organised by NHS education for Scotland and NHS Boards will arrange and additional half day training session.

Indemnity

11. As you will be acting on behalf of the Board you will be indemnified through CNORIS.

Consultation

12. The British Dental Association have been consulted with regarding the participation of NHS dental contractors in the Covid-19 programme and on the content of this circular.

Enquiries

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

Scottish Government Primary Care Directorate