

Dear Colleague

**AMENDMENT NO. 156 TO THE STATEMENT OF
DENTAL REMUNERATION**

**Improvement Allowance for Replacement and/or
Repairs to Dental Equipment (Determination X)**

Summary

1. This letter advises NHS Boards and Practitioner Services of the publication of an amendment to the Statement of Dental Remuneration (SDR), Amendment No. 156, which takes effect from 1 April 2022.
2. The Amendment introduces a new improvement allowance for dental practices to help meet the costs for the replacement and/or repairs to dental equipment. Funding has already been made available from the Scottish Government to NHS Boards; £5m for ventilation improvements, and a further tranche of £7.5m for the purchase of speed adjusting hand pieces. Underspends from these monies should be used to fund this new improvement allowance payment.
3. This funding can now be used and disbursed to dental practices that meet the conditions of entitlement for the new improvement allowance.
4. Practices that have submitted notes of interest by 31 March 2022 for the ventilation and hand pieces funding are also eligible for this new allowance payment.

14 April 2022

Addresses

For action
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Director, Practitioner
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Funding Support for Ventilation Improvement Allowance and Speed Adjusting Hand Pieces; Notifications of Interest

5. Practices that have also submitted notes of interest by 31 March 2022 for funding support for ventilation improvements and the purchase of speed adjusting hand pieces are eligible to apply as per the requirements and procedures set down in PCA(D)(2021)3 and PCA(D)(2021)6 respectively.

6. Boards should note that practices can apply for all three allowances; ventilation improvements, speed adjusting hand pieces and replacement and/or repairs to dental equipment.

Actions for NHS Boards

7. NHS Boards should ensure they are familiar with the Memorandum to this letter, and in particular the requirement to have the necessary arrangements in place to manage the administration and payment of this allowance to qualifying dental practices.

8. As per the requirements and procedures set down in PCA(D)(2021)3 and PCA(D)(2021)6, NHS Boards should ensure they have the necessary arrangements in place to manage the administration and payment of the Ventilation Improvement Allowance and Speed Adjusting Hand Pieces Allowance.

9. NHS Boards should ensure they urgently issue the Memorandum to this letter to all dentists and dental bodies corporate on their dental list.

Managing Applications; Budgetary Process

10. NHS Boards have full discretion to manage applications, including rejecting in full or in part applications as they see fit, based on the principles of cost effectiveness, value for money and appropriateness.

11. Allocations have already been made available to NHS Boards, £5.0m for ventilation funding support and 7.5m for speed adjusting hand pieces. This funding should be used for the new improvement allowance. NHS Boards may also reject in full or in part applications to ensure they do not overspend their budgetary provision. NHS Boards are not required to disburse their full allocation if they deem the quality and appropriateness of the applications insufficient.

Claims for the New Improvement Allowance

12. A standard form will be provided to Health Boards which they can use as a basis for the application process for dental practices. Practices can make a single, retrospective claim. Claims can only be accepted for expenditure occurred during the period 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2022.

13. For practices that make a claim, NHS Boards need to ensure receipts are provided with the claim. Claims must only be paid subject to the necessary declarations being completed (see Memorandum at paragraph 5). **Where the amount received is less than the maximum improvement allowance (as calculated for the practice in question) only the actual received value shall be paid.**

14. NHS Boards do have the discretion to consider other equivalent evidence if receipts are not available, as well as requesting other evidence to deem the appropriateness of the applications.

15. NHS Boards also have discretion over the additional items of equipment that may be claimed for as part of this improvement allowance (see para(s) 10 and 11).

Validation of Replacement and/or Repairs to Dental Equipment

16. It is the responsibility of the dental practice to ensure that the equipment meets the required specifications and they will be required to confirm this on the application form. NHS Boards have full discretion over the appropriateness of the equipment etc.

Yours sincerely



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Chief Dental Officer

DENTISTS/DENTAL BODIES CORPORATE
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES

- i. IMPROVEMENT ALLOWANCE FOR REPLACEMENT AND/OR REPAIRS TO DENTAL EQUIPMENT
- ii. CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES TO THE STATEMENT OF DENTAL REMUNERATION (AMENDMENT 156)
- iii. FUNDING SUPPORT FOR VENTILATION AND SPEED ADJUSTING HAND PIECES; NOTIFICATIONS OF INTEREST

i. IMPROVEMENT ALLOWANCE FOR REPLACEMENT AND/OR REPAIRS TO DENTAL EQUIPMENT

Background

1. PCA(D)(2022)4 advised practices of the extension of funding support for ventilation improvements and speed adjusting hand pieces to other areas of equipment.
2. Practices were requested, irrespective of whether or not they had applied for funding towards ventilation support or speed adjusting hand pieces to make a notification of interest to their respective NHS Board by 31 March 2022.
3. This Memo advises for those practices that have made a notification of interest on the details of the application process and criteria.

Improvement Allowance for Replacement and/or Repairs to Dental Equipment

4. Practices that made a notification of interest by 31 March 2022 are advised they can now make an application for an *Improvement Allowance for Replacement and/or Repairs to Dental Equipment*. A practice may claim the costs for the purchase, renewal or repair of the following items of dental equipment:

- Dental Chair
- Dental Operating Light
- Cuspidor/Spittoon
- Dental Suction
- Dental Compressor
- Dental Xray Unit

The list is not exhaustive and practices can request additional items of equipment at the discretion of their NHS Board.

5. NHS Boards have full discretion to manage applications, including rejecting in full or in part applications as they see fit, based on the principles of cost effectiveness, value for money and appropriateness.

6. NHS Boards may also reject in full or in part applications to ensure they do not overspend their budgetary provision. NHS Boards are not required to disburse their full allocation if they deem the quality and appropriateness of the applications insufficient.

Value of the Improvement Allowance

7. A practice may claim the costs for the replacement and/or repairs to dental equipment up to a maximum allowance payment of £2,500 per individual surgery (treatment room).

8. The value of the improvement allowance for replacement and/or repairs to dental equipment will be the lower of the following:

- the qualifying receipts which are provided to the Health Board as part of the application for the allowance; or,
- the improvement allowance for replacement and/or repairs to dental equipment as calculated by the 'practice NHS commitment percentage' multiplied by £2,500 and then multiplied by the number of surgeries in the practice.

For the purpose of the improvement allowance for replacement and/or repairs to dental equipment the 'practice NHS commitment percentage' is the average time spent on NHS work compared to private work in a typical week across all the practitioners in the practice.

9. An example has been provided below to provide an explanation of the calculation of the improvement allowance for replacement and/or repairs to dental equipment payment. Practices will be provided with a form that will make these calculations automatically.

Example Calculation

10. Suppose there are three practitioners in the practice. Practitioner A spends 20% of their typical week on NHS; practitioner B, 40%; and practitioner C, 60%.

11. The 'practice NHS commitment percentage' is then (20% + 40% + 60%) divided by the three practitioners in the practice, which equates to 40%.

12. This percentage is then multiplied by £2,500 and then by the number of surgeries in the practice.

13. Suppose this same practice has three surgeries, which attracts an improvement allowance for replacement and/or repairs to dental equipment of up to £3,000 (40% multiplied by £2,500 multiplied by 3 surgeries), and the practice provides qualifying receipts worth £1,000 for the purchase, renewal or repair of dental equipment. The payment to the practice is then the £1,000 qualifying receipted value being the lower amount.

Conditions of Entitlement

14. It is a condition of entitlement for payment of the improvement allowance for replacement and/or repairs to dental equipment that:

- all the contractors within the practice will continue to provide general dental services until 1 April 2024; and,
- the equipment for which an allowance is claimed meets the required standard and is deemed appropriate by the NHS Board.

15. It is the responsibility of the dental practice to ensure that the equipment meets the required specifications and they will be required to confirm this on the claim form.

Making a Claim for Payment

16. Claims for the improvement allowance for replacement and/or repairs to dental equipment can be made for eligible equipment purchased, renewed or repaired on or after 1 April 2020.

17. NHS Boards will provide instruction to practices on their local processes for making a claim. Completed applications must be received by NHS Boards no later than 30 June 2022.

18. The claim must be completed and signed by a person who is duly authorised to act on behalf of all of the dental contractors in a practice, who is able to confirm that the equipment meets the required standards, and who can commit to the ongoing conditions attached to the claim.

19. Only one claim is permitted per dental practice. The receipts of purchase should be included with the claim form. A claim should not be made until all the eligible equipment has been purchased and installed and all receipts are available. *Evidence other than receipts of purchase may be accepted at the NHS Board's discretion.*

20. NHS Boards may also require details of the equipment purchased to deem appropriateness etc.

Recovery of Allowance Payments

21. Practices may be required to pay back all or part of the improvement allowance for replacement and/or repairs to dental equipment if they fail to meet the conditions of entitlement.

ii. CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES TO STATEMENT OF DENTAL REMUNERATION

22. A number of consequential changes have been made to the Statement of Dental Remuneration (SDR). A copy of the updated determination is included in Annex A at the end of this Memorandum. The full Amendment No. 156 to the SDR can also be viewed at: <https://www.scottishdental.org/>.

23. Amendment No. 156 will come into effect from 1 April 2022.

iii. FUNDING SUPPORT FOR VENTILATION AND ELECTRIC SPEED ADJUSTING HAND PIECES; NOTIFICATIONS OF INTEREST

24. PCA(D)(2022)4 also advised practices to ensure notifications of interest for ventilation improvements and the purchase of new speed adjusting hand pieces were submitted to their respective Board by 31 March 2022.

25. For those practices that have made notifications of interest they should now make applications for ventilation improvements and the purchase of new speed adjusting hand pieces by following the previous guidance in PCA(D)(2021)3 and PCA(D)(2021)6 respectively, following the process notified by your NHS Board.

Enquiries

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

Primary Care Directorate
14 April 2022

Statement of Dental Remuneration

DETERMINATION X

ALLOWANCES AND GRANTS FOR PRACTICE IMPROVEMENTS

Determination X describes the allowances available for practice improvements, including for IT infrastructure, ventilation improvements, electric speed adjusting hand pieces, and replacement and/or repairs of dental equipment. It also describes the grants available for practice improvements for new and established vocational training practices. The eligibility criteria; the amount that can be claimed; how to apply; and what happens if a dentist or practice fails to meet the conditions are also explained.

Part ID – Improvement Allowance for Replacement and/or Repairs to Dental Equipment

Payment of an Improvement Allowance for Replacement and/or Repairs to Dental Equipment

21.— (1) Subject to paragraph 1 (general) above, a Health Board may pay an improvement allowance for replacement and/or repairs to dental equipment to a practice towards the purchase, renewal or repair of the following, non-exhaustive, list of items of dental equipment:

- (i) Dental chair;
- (ii) Dental operating light
- (iii) Cuspidor/Spittoon
- (iv) Dental suction
- (v) Dental compressor
- (vi) Dental xray unit.

(2) A Health Board may only pay an improvement allowance for replacement and/or repairs to dental equipment in respect of equipment which was purchased, renewed or repaired on or after 1 April 2020.

Amounts

22.—(1) A Health Board shall not pay allowances under this Determination, which taken together over a period of a financial year, exceed the amount allocated to the Health Board by the Scottish Ministers in respect of this Determination.

(2) The maximum allowance payable under paragraph 21 in respect of a practice is the lower of:

- (a) the full value of the qualifying receipts which are provided to the Health Board as part of the application for the allowance in respect of that practice, in accordance with paragraph 24(2)(b); or
- (b) the practice NHS commitment percentage multiplied by £2500, multiplied by the number of surgeries in the practice.

(3) The “practice NHS commitment percentage” is calculated by:

- (a) firstly adding together the NHS commitment level of all registered dental practitioners who practise dentistry from the practice, and
- (b) finally dividing the result of the calculation carried out under paragraph 22(3)(a) by the total number of registered dental practitioners who practise dentistry from the practice.

(4) A Health Board may only make one allowance payment per practice.

Conditions of Entitlement

23. An allowance under paragraph 21 is not to be paid to any practice unless the Health Board has secured from an authorised representative of the contractor(s) who provide general dental services from the practice, undertakings that:

- (a) the contractors will continue to provide general dental services until 1 April 2024; and
- (b) the dental equipment for which an allowance is claimed meets the required standard.

Application for Allowance

24.—(1) Applications for allowances shall be made by contractors to a Health Board in such manner as the Health Board may determine.

(2) A Health Board must only consider applications for an allowance under paragraph 21 which:

- (a) are made by an authorised representative on behalf of all the contractors within the practice;
- (b) enclose qualifying receipts for dental equipment for which the allowance is being claimed; and
- (c) are received by the Health Board on or before 30 June 2022.

Recovery of Allowances

25. Where an authorised representative receives an allowance under this Part, but the practice does not continue to meet the conditions of entitlement at paragraph 23, the Health Board must require the authorised representative to pay back one thirty-sixth of that allowance for every month of the three year period during which the conditions are not met.