



Dear Colleague

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITY – Cycle 2025-28

Summary

1. This letter advises of the arrangements for the 2025-28 Quality Improvement (QI) cycle and includes details for the first project that is available to complete from 1st August 2025.

Background

2. As you will be aware dentists on a Dental List are bound by the obligations described in the Terms of Service contained in The National Health Service (General Dental Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2010. These terms of service require that dentists on either sub-part A of the first part of a Dental List or on the second part of a Dental List in Scotland on 1st August 2025 must undertake 15 hours of QI activity in the 3 year cycle beginning on that date.

24 July 2025

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

Director, Practitioner Services

For information

Chief Executive,
NHS National Services Scotland

Chief Executive,
NHS Education for Scotland

Directors of Dentistry

Dentists/Dental Bodies Corporate

Policy Enquiries to:

Dentistry and Optometry Division
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EH1 3DG

NHSDentistry@gov.scot

QI Activity Cycle 2025-28

3. For the 2025-28 QI cycle dentists are required to undertake three projects, one project will become available in each year of the cycle. Each project will equate to 5 hours of QI activity and will attract the appropriate payment upon submission. Each year of the QI cycle is defined as beginning on the 1st of August and ending on the 31st July of the following calendar year, this period is defined as the 'cycle year'.
4. The first project will be made available on 1st August 2025 and to satisfy your obligations under the Terms of Service must be submitted no later than 31st July 2026. Please be aware of the extant payment condition that submission of claims for payment must be made to Practitioner Services Division (PSD) **within 6 months of the date of completion of your project.**
5. The theme of the project for cycle year commencing 1st August 2025 is 'patient perceptions of enhanced prevention'. This dental team-led project will comprise of a patient feedback questionnaire and practice team based reflective activity.
6. The aim of this QI activity is to explore patient experience of receiving Statement of Dental Remuneration (SDR) Item 2A - Enhanced Preventive Advice and Treatment following the introduction of dental payment reform in November 2023. This information will help to understand how the current provision of preventive advice aligns with delivery of Values Based Health and Care.
7. Some dentists on a Dental List do not routinely deliver care through item 2A, such as where care is provided in specialist practice or on a referral basis only. In this instance an alternative project has been prepared that will satisfy the Terms of Service requirements in the first cycle year. Details of how to access this alternative project will be provided by NES in due course.
8. A Turas Learn website has been created by NES to support dental teams to carry out this QI activity and fulfil their QI requirements. This website contains all of the information necessary, including an FAQ as well as details of how to access the alternative project for specialist and referral practices. This web page can be found at the following link <https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/83336> .

QI Hours and Payment

9. To claim payment for this QI activity dentists must fully participate in the requirements of the project and submit a reflective report to NES as detailed in the guidance provided on the Turas Learn website <https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/83336> .
10. On completion of this QI project those dentists eligible for a QI allowance payment should complete the payment form that will become available from 1st August 2025 on the PSD website and can be accessed at [Allowances and payments | National Services Scotland](#) . This form requires a self-declaration of compliance with the requirements of the project.
11. Details regarding the remaining projects to be completed for compliance of the QI cycle will be provided in due course.

Exceptions

12. Where a dentist joins a Dental List in Scotland for the first time after 1st August in any relevant cycle year participation in the project for that year is optional. However, they will require to complete a QI project for each of the remaining full cycle years, e.g. if a dentist joins a Dental List in Scotland for the first time on 2nd August 2025 participation in the first cycle year project is optional however they will require to complete a project for each of the remaining two full cycle years.
13. If a dentist joins a Dental List for the first time in Scotland after 1st August 2027, they are not required to participate in the QI activity for this cycle.
14. If a dentist has a period of leave e.g. maternity, paternity, adoptive leave or certified sick leave, participation in QI activity and the number of hours required should be proportionate to the relevant period that remains in the three-year cycle as agreed with the NHS Board.

Enquiries

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

Yours sincerely



Tom Ferris
Chief Dental Officer