COVID-19

Lee Savarrio - Chief of Dentistry Update (11-2-2021)

I would like to thank all of you who have once again ‘rallied to the call’ to become vaccinators for both NHSGG&C and NHS Louisa Jordan. I understand there have been over 700 registered with the staff bank for NHS Louisa Jordan alone.

NHS Louise Jordan are currently working as quickly as possible to allocate everyone who has responded to an induction date, so can I ask you to please be patient. Please do not turn up for induction unless you have received a formal invitation, due to social distancing there is a maximum number who can be accommodated for each arranged session. NHS Louise Jordan is also working with colleagues within NHSGGC&C to support progression through the NHSGG&C staff bank as quickly as possible.

Once again my thanks for your ongoing support.

A couple of things to update on:

- **Covid Vaccination**

  Yesterday you should have received an email with the link below to book an appointment on a vaccination clinic on **Sunday 14 Feb**. As stated this should only be issued to staff in priority 1 & 2 who missed out on a vaccination in the first tranche.

  Link for this weekend - [https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/14feb](https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/14feb)

  As also mentioned in the email, if someone cannot receive the Pfizer vaccine as they have experienced anaphylaxis we will be setting up clinics with a different vaccine. If you or any of your team are in this group please email occupational health at [Occupational.Health@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Occupational.Health@ggc.scot.nhs.uk) so they are aware of your need.

- **£500 Payment**

  GDS - You will have received a copy of PCA(D)(2021)01 this week, which explains the arrangements for the NHS thankyou payments to persons working within an independent contractor service.

  Can I remind you that the link to the form you are required to complete was included within the PCA and must be submitted to Practitioner Services by **21 February 2021**. As detailed in the letter any claims received after this submission date will not be considered.

  You may also find the following link helpful: [https://nhsnss.org/media/5117/faq-nhs-bonus-payment-do-v10-8221.pdf](https://nhsnss.org/media/5117/faq-nhs-bonus-payment-do-v10-8221.pdf)

Stay Safe and Look After One Another
HDS /PDS - For all employed staff you have previously been made aware that this will be paid in your February salary or, for those of you who have requested, payments can be staggered.

- **Emergency Care Summery Usage (ECS)**

As you may know last year, following extensive negotiation and work by the CDO, Scottish Government and NSS, GDPs were given access to the Emergency Care Summary.

Access to this system for the GDP’s, which was hard fought for, was described as “essential” by GDP representatives and the additional information that it would provide seen as required to deliver safe, effective dental care particularly during the pandemic where emergency and urgent care provision was at the heart of what dentists were doing. Unfortunately, however the evidence would suggest that access to this programme is low suggestive of it not being valued. I have therefore been asked to bring this to your attention and to remind you that this access is available for you to support delivery of safe patient care.

I have attached a copy of the User Guide which I hope will be of assistance, particularly if you have not accessed the system in some time.

- **Social Distancing Toolkit**

This toolkit is being used wider within NHSGG&C to promote staff awareness of social distancing. Thanks to everyone’s commendable efforts, transmission within dental settings has been mostly localised to non-clinical areas or from contacts outwith the workplace. The toolkit may be helpful in raising awareness in your department or practice and/or identifying potential concerns.

[https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/media/264917/covid19_staff_socdist_managers_action_tool.pdf](https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/media/264917/covid19_staff_socdist_managers_action_tool.pdf)

- **Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs)**

I understand that NSS will be distributing LFTs to all general dental practices within the near future, these can be used by any clinical or non-clinical team member who may wish to do so. These would hopefully provide your teams with some additional reassurances and allow you to react more quickly in the event of a positive result. We are hopeful that guidance for use will be forthcoming centrally in the near future to accompany the roll out.

Stay Safe and Look After One Another
Chief of Dentistry Updates

I appreciate there has been a huge amount of communication from me over the last 10 months. I also appreciate that it can be difficult to track back and find communications and indeed, some may have been missed during the migration of practice and NHS.net emails last year. The link below will direct to all Chief of Dentistry updates which are on the Board’s internet site.


Scottishdental.org is also an excellent repository for any historic Chief Dental Officer letters and PCAs.  https://www.scottishdental.org/

Hopefully, as we move out of winter and vaccinations continue to progress we can optimistically look forward to a safer and more sociable spring and hope that we can start to help more of those patients unable to access dental care in our services during the pandemic.

Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry