Lee Savarrio – Chief of Dentistry Update (18-6-2020)

You will have seen the announcement yesterday by the First Minister and the letter from the Chief Dental Officer confirming that the route map will move into Phase 2 and as a result that NHS general dental services remobilisation can start from Monday 22 June 2020 under the amendment to the Statement of Dental Remuneration.

We have now received a response from around half of practices to the Webropol survey about resuming dental services within your practices and the majority of these will now have received a letter to confirm their ability to resume. We look forward to working with you further in a shared care arrangement for urgent dental care between colleagues in GDS, PDS and HDS. Please do inform us of the date you intend to re commence services. For those who indicated they wish to open a second surgery we will be contacting you over the next few days to arrange further discussion. It is our expectation that most if not all practices should be open to see their own non-AGP emergencies in the near future and certainly before the end of July where possible. For those practices based within a health centre, you should also be sharing your recovery plans with the health centre manager.

I appreciate this will be a busy time for practices and your main desire is to start to see and treat your own patients. However I want to emphasise that we do still need your help to support AGP treatments at our urgent dental care centres (UDCC’s). We are still experiencing an increase in the number of referrals through the UDCC’s and although more practices will be open, for most this does not include AGP’s, so the high throughput in the UDCC’s will continue.

Can I remind you that to make the process for referral as efficient as possible, all referrals should be made electronically via the email address previously provided. This allows us to free the telephone lines for GDPs who are seeking advice only. Where referral forms are not fully completed with all the relevant information, they will be returned. Now that we are in Phase 2 public health wise and practices should be opening we also would expect any relevant radiographs as per radiation protection guidance.

Please ensure that you use the newest version of the referral form which includes the red/amber/green categories and that you refer to the guidance before allocating your RAG score. All referral to the UDCCs are for the delivery of urgent care only.

All of these are available on the NHS GGC website:


Also attached to this update is a communication from NSS regarding the new SDR for PDS and GDS.

Have a good weekend, Stay Safe
Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry

Stay Safe and Look After One Another