



PPE Update
(last updated June 2022)
(*Amended since previous version)

***What are the latest PPE updates?**

- **The Scottish Government have approved the continued provision of funded PPE for NHS dental care until the end of March 2023 unless there is a significant change to Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) guidance.**
- As a resilience measure, NSS have asked dental practices to retain a 6-week supply of advanced PPE. This is to ensure practices can continue to deliver dental services to patients at an adequate service level should previous IPC guidance be re-introduced by the Scottish Government. Should practices have more advanced PPE (gowns and FFP3 masks) than a 6-week supply, NSS are in the process of identifying opportunities to recycle or reuse these items.
- PPE stock is at sufficient levels to allow continued provision and there has been no discussion about limiting supplies following the recent relaxation of IPC guidance when treating patients on the non-respiratory pathway. NSS are well prepared for a higher PPE demand to support the increase in dental activity this change will bring. Practitioners should exercise choice and decide whether they would prefer to continue using an FFP3 mask or a Type IIR mask when treating patients on the non-respiratory pathway.
- Transparent face masks were added to Pecos for practices to order from March 2022.
- Practices that require staff to be face-fitted for FFP3 masks can have this done. Boards are responsible for arranging staff face fitting and there is capacity available via the Arco face-fitting service. Please contact your board for more information.

***How is PPE allocated to practices?**

- NHS Dental practices should order the PPE they require via the Pecos online ordering platform.
- Each NHS board has an overall PPE allocation that they work within to distribute to the practices in their area accordingly. PPE stock is at sufficient levels and NSS are receptive to requests from boards to increase their PPE allocation if necessary.
- NSS have been monitoring the PPE authorisation process between NHS boards which has revealed modest differences. Discussion with boards has increased access to PPE in areas where the process had been applied too strictly. Results of monitoring now show greater parity across boards regarding access to PPE.
- From August 2021, an allocation of free PPE was made available to NHS practices who host dental nurse trainees. PPE supplies were also increased for practices who host VDPs. Practices are encouraged to have early dialogue with their board if they intend on recruiting a trainee dental nurse or new VDP to ensure additional PPE is supplied.

How does each board determine how to allocate PPE to practices in their area?

- Boards have not been provided with a specific list of criteria to determine how they should decide a practice's PPE allocation.
- Each board is operating independently resulting in some local variations between areas.
- Some boards seem to be proactive in liaising with practices about their circumstances, however others seem to be acting only when the practice contacts them.
- **Gross IoS data** is generally the main source of information boards use to determine if they are allocating enough PPE per practice. They also may use some or all the methods below:
 - Using **Dental Practice Advisers' local knowledge** of practices
For example, from inspections, they would know the building structure and layout of practices so could comment on whether social distancing would be easy or more difficult. They may also have good knowledge of practices that are not using branch practices and only the main site is shielding. They would also have an idea if a practice were mostly NHS or private split.
 - **Informal self-assessment** – some boards are asking practices to 'self-assess' and provide information on what measures they have taken if they are following the SOPs.
 - The boards also have access to GP234 data outlining the pre covid **NHS/Private split** of a dental practice (the PPE is to support NHS activity only).

What do I do if I want to discuss/check my practice PPE allocation?

- Discuss your situation with your local board rather than NSS.
- NSS do not decide the individual practice PPE allocation but can advise the allocation they have been asked to supply.
- If you require this information, feel free to contact kirsten.phillips@bda.org and she can liaise with Paul Cushley at NSS on your behalf.

What boards are set up to order PPE online?

- All boards are now set up for online ordering via Pecos.
- NSS have conducted virtual training sessions for boards on how to use Pecos and more can be arranged as required.
- Online ordering is essentially the 'pull model'. This provides NSS with more detailed information on the specific type of PPE practices require (for example, all medium gloves rather than a mixture).
- A 'push model' was used initially where all practices received the same type of PPE regardless of specific requirements.
- Boards will have access to data from Pecos and any unordered PPE will be recycled and available to allocate the following month to practices through their authorisation process.

What do I do if I am concerned about the quality of the PPE I have received?

- There are now [quality control contacts](#) within each health board. You would report the situation to them in the first instance and they will escalate to NSS.

What do I do if I want to report an issue with my PPE delivery?

- There is now a centralised third-party team to deal with PPE order queries, such as missing deliveries.
- Contact details: Email - primarycare@hubppe.co.uk or Telephone - 0300 303 3536.
- Menzies should only be contacted if there is an attempt to deliver PPE and the practice receives a 'missed delivery' card. Telephone 0141 568 4293.

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