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To NHS Dental Teams

28 June 2022

We are writing to provide you with details about the immediate next steps for the multiplier and wider engagement programme with sector on reform.

Next Steps for the Multiplier

Since the start of April we have been greatly encouraged to see a significant increase in both the volume of examination appointments and levels of care being delivered closer to pre-pandemic levels. The combination of both a de-escalation of infection, prevention and control (IPC) measures and continued additional support through the interim multiplier arrangements have provided a solid basis for the sector to move forward.

In reviewing the multiplier we have looked at a range of factors, including the remaining IPC constraints, overall levels of activity, and affordability. Taking these factors together coupled with the requirement to maintain the momentum we have achieved over the first three months of the interim multiplier arrangement, the intention is from the July/paid August schedule to set the multiplier at 1.3 - which means that contractor fee claims will attract an additional 30% on top of actual activity. The 30% enhancement of the General Dental Practice Allowance will also be retained for this period.

These arrangements will be reviewed in advance of the October/paid November schedule, with the intention to write out to the profession in advance.

Reform Programme for NHS Dentistry/ Next Steps

We have previously intimated that as the recovery programme develops and patient access to services expands, we would turn to the issue of reform. We are very much aware there is a strong appetite from the sector for a reform programme, and want to meet that expectation with a programme that is focused and inclusive.

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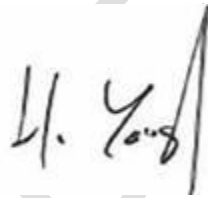


The Oral Health Improvement Plan, and the very real concerns expressed by the sector during the pandemic, highlighted the need to prioritise payment reform, for an administratively simpler and more clinically focused system. Our intention is to engage with the whole sector on this programme, and as evidence of our good faith, have enclosed a link to a survey where each of you can comment on a possible list of treatments for inclusion in a future NHS model [Scottish Dental]. We will repeat these surveys to the whole sector periodically to ensure we build a national dialogue as we go forward with this change programme. Please pass this letter through to your respective dental teams so they are aware of the link to the survey.

We are also asking for nominees to an NHS dental reform advisory group to the Chief Dental Officer, you should be at least 70% NHS committed as the dental contractor, and your practice likewise should be at least 70% NHS. Nominations should be sent to your NHS Board by 31 July 2022. We would encourage all interested practitioners and from the wider NHS dental team to provide the broadest possible range of experiences to help shape the future of NHS dental services in a collegiate, inclusive manner.

We trust this is a helpful update of the Government's next steps and immediate priorities for reform.

We look forward to working with you.



HUMZA YOUSAF

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