



Latest updates from the GDC - July 2020

Reopening dental practices and returning to work

The outbreak of COVID-19 has put us all in new and unfamiliar territory. It is an unprecedented event, and has affected people and families across the UK in different ways, due to our varying circumstances, professions, and backgrounds.

The return to work will undoubtedly throw up a series of new scenarios that will need to be considered and carefully assessed in relation to the circumstances and the situation you now find yourself in. Guidance from each of the four nations has been issued for the reopening of dental practices, but it cannot cover all situations, environments or circumstances, and will need to be adapted.

Judgements will need to be made as to how to proceed. Where decisions are based on the national guidance and a thorough and evidenced assessment of risks, and where the mitigations identified are clearly recorded and followed, there should be no unease about regulatory intervention. As [dental professionals, you are best placed to make these judgements](#), particular to the circumstances of your practice, dental team and patients.

We have shared a lot of [guidance on our website on returning to work](#), and will continue to update our signposting as new guidance is issued. If you need further advice or clarification, you may find it useful to speak to your indemnifier.

Annual Renewal: CPD

We understand that many of you have faced difficulties in accessing CPD this year, due to the restrictions imposed on us all, as the UK brought the COVID-19 outbreak under control. If you have concerns, please do not worry, as there is some flexibility built into the CPD scheme and we will not be penalising anyone who has a shortfall due to COVID-19.

The deadline to complete CPD for this year is 31 July, and your CPD statement needs to be recorded on your [eGDC account](#) by 28 August. This means that there is a small

window left to make up any shortfall you might have, if your current circumstances allow for it.

The Enhanced CPD scheme has some flexibility built into it. If you're mid-cycle and did 10 hours of CPD in the previous year, you can submit a zero CPD hours statement this year. Further, if you only need a little more time to help you to deal with the exceptional circumstances you're facing, and you are in the final year of your cycle, you can apply for a grace period to complete your CPD hours. You can do this by emailing in your request for grace before the 31 July. Granted grace periods provide an additional 56 days.

Please remember, in all cases, you must make a CPD statement by **28 August** to complete the Annual Renewal process, whether or not you have a shortfall.

To find out more about the Enhanced CPD scheme, [please visit our website](#). If you'd like to get in contact with us about grace periods or an expected shortfall in your CPD because of COVID-19, please email cpd@gdc-uk.org.

Annual Renewal: Direct Debits

We appreciate that these are challenging times, and know that around 20% of you opt to pay the ARF by Direct Debit. For this reason, we want to provide you with an additional notification about when payments will be taken from bank accounts this year, which is 8 July 2020.

For any issues relating to Annual Renewal please call 020 7167 6000 or email renewal@gdc-org.uk. You can also find out more [about renewal](#) and [restoration on our website](#).



Wellbeing support for COVID-19 responders

Dental and other healthcare professionals have been working tirelessly in response to the COVID-19 crisis up and down the country. In support, new online wellbeing, mental health and resilience support has been made available to healthcare professionals and volunteers.

Please visit the web pages listed below for further information:

- [Psychological First Aid training, England](#) – available to essential workers who have responded to COVID-19 and who want to learn how to give practical and emotional support to individuals using psychological first aid.
- [National Wellbeing Hub, Scotland](#) – provides new online physical and mental health support to healthcare and social care staff responding to COVID-19.
- [Wellbeing and psychological support, Northern Ireland](#) – a range of resources, tools and helplines are available in support of healthcare professionals and volunteers.
- [Psychological and mental health first aid resources, Wales](#) – provides open access to a range of resources for all healthcare professionals.

Annual Report and Accounts 2019 published

Last month we published our Annual Report and Accounts 2019 [on our website](#).

Our Annual Report and Accounts 2019 highlight the progress we've made and provides full financial statements for the year. It also gives details of what we have been doing to protect patient safety and improve standards. The report has been laid in the UK Parliament.