



Latest updates from the GDC - June 2020

Phased return of dental care across the UK

Chief Dental Officers across the UK have now issued notices outlining the phased return of dental care. Dates and approaches vary across the four nations. You can find links to this information, by country, [from our website](#).

Ensuring appropriate infection control will be of critical importance while the risk level remains high. [Public Health England has published guidance](#) on behalf of all four nations which provides a good starting point.

Annual Renewal for DCPs opens 10 June

As is the case each year, every dental care professional (DCP) needs to complete the Annual Renewal process to ensure continued GDC registration from 1 August.

Annual Renewal will open on 10 June, and we understand that it has arrived at a very difficult time this year, when many DCPs are unable to work and may have faced difficulties in fully meeting CPD requirements. We very much want to see a safe return to practice, and continued registration for the whole dental team, is one of the things that needs to be in place for this to happen.

To complete Annual Renewal, you will need to:

- pay the Annual Retention Fee (ARF)
- make a CPD statement
- declare that indemnity is, or will be, in place.

We recognise that access to CPD has been seriously hindered by COVID-19 control measures. If you're one of those affected, please be reassured that you will not be penalised. We need you to make your annual or end of cycle CPD statement in the normal way, even if you have not met the requirements this year, but we will be flexible in our response and will take account of the exceptional circumstances you have faced.

If you have the opportunity to comply with the minimum hourly requirements for CPD, before the 31 July deadline, we would like to encourage you to take it. This is because of the important role CPD plays in patient safety and maintaining public confidence in the dental professions. However, we understand that this may not be possible.

Further information and FAQs on Annual Renewal can be [found on our website](#). And our Customer Services team is available to answer questions specific to your circumstances; please call 020 7167 6000 or [get in touch via the website](#).

You will also find [guidance from us on our website on changes](#) resulting from COVID-19.



How is our Scope of Practice guidance being used?

This week we published independent research commissioned from IFF Research to understand a number of key issues relating to our Scope of Practice guidance, including how it is used and by who. The [Scope of Practice Review](#) research reported that:

- The Scope of Practice guidance is currently not being used in the way it was originally intended. Instead of being used as a guide, it is being used more as a checklist for tasks and treatments by dental professionals.
- Dental professionals reported high levels of awareness and a good understanding of their own scope of practice, which has been gained through education, work and training and development, not through our guidance. Dental professionals also reported low levels of awareness on the scope of others in the dental team.
- The primary users of the guidance are education and training providers, employers, professional representative bodies, and less so dental professionals.
- That members of the public do not feel that the guidance is relevant or necessary for them, and don't feel like they need to have access to this type of information.
- There is significant worry among dental professionals and stakeholders that professionals may act out of scope if there is substantial changes to the guidance or if it were no longer to exist.

This research forms part of the evidence base being developed to support a review of our Scope of Practice guidance, and we would like to thank all those involved for their active participation in the research.

We are now undertaking further work to supplement these findings and will be looking to clarify the purpose of the Scope of Practice guidance, particularly in light of the fact that it is no longer being used in the way it was intended, and is largely not being used by the

public or patients. We will also want to clarify the support needs of dental professionals and what form this should take.

We will later be inviting dental professionals to engage with us on these issues and help us shape any future proposals for the guidance.