



Latest updates from the GDC

Making your CPD statement during COVID-19, even if you have not met the requirements

The time for dental care professionals (DCPs) to make an annual or end-of-cycle CPD statement, as part of the Annual Renewal process, is fast approaching.

This year we need you to make your CPD statement as normal, but we know that the pandemic has meant that some of you have not been able to meet the full requirements. If that affects you - don't worry - we still need to know what you have been able to do, but we won't be penalising anybody who falls short because of COVID-19.

The Enhanced CPD scheme has two minimum hourly requirements, which under normal circumstances you are required to meet. These are:

- to complete 10 hours of CPD in every consecutive two-year period, and
- a minimum number of CPD hours in every five-year cycle, dependent on your title.

From our records, it appears that over three quarters of DCPs have already met these requirements and are able to make a compliant CPD statement now. However, this means that some of you may have concerns about making your CPD statement during this renewal period.

We are asking all of you, even if you think you have not met the minimum CPD requirements, to make your annual or end-of-cycle CPD statement in the normal way. You can make your CPD statement on eGDC at any time, and almost 10,000 of you have already done so, but you must make your statement by 28 August 2020. If there is a reason why that won't be possible, [please get in touch with us](#), so that we can agree a way forward.

When the deadline passes, we will write to all those who have not been able to comply to ask you to provide a little bit more detail about the issues you faced. The Registrar will take account of the exceptional circumstances this year and will not erase anybody from the register in cases which were due to COVID-19.

If you fall into this category for any reason, and you are mid-cycle, you will be asked to complete the minimum number of hours for your full cycle in the normal way. If you're coming to the end of your cycle, you will start your new cycle from 1 August 2020, and will only be asked to meet the normal minimum hourly requirements for that CPD cycle.

You can find out how many CPD hours you need to do this year by logging into your [eGDC account](#). If you are short of completed CPD hours and have an opportunity to be compliant by the deadline, please take it. However, you won't be penalised if this isn't possible and please remember, that there is already some flexibility built into the Enhanced CPD scheme:

- If you did 10 hours of CPD last year, you could make a zero-hours statement this year.
- If you think you could make-up your shortfall with a very short extension, you could apply for a grace period in writing before the 31 July.

If you have any further questions about the [Enhanced CPD scheme, please visit our website](#). Further information about the Annual Renewal process will be made available over the coming weeks, in readiness for the opening of the renewal period on 10 June.

Registered address and DCP Annual Renewal

Notices for Annual Renewal are now being prepared. These will be sent to your GDC registered address. If you're not working, but your registered address is where you work, please update it before the end of May, to your preferred address.

You can do this using your [eGDC account](#).

The GDC in lockdown – changing the way we work

As levels of dental activity have reduced, we have been asked why the GDC's activities have not reduced in parallel, leading to a reduction in our costs and thus the amount we need to collect in registration fees. [Read more on this in our latest blog post](#) from Stefan Czerniawski, Executive Director, Strategy.

Latest COVID-19 guidance for dental practices

Further guidance was issued today by the CDO England, A Prompt to Prepare, outlining considerations for the resumption of dental care services. Further, the CDO Scotland issued guidance on the Remobilisation of NHS Dental Services in Scotland on 20 May, providing details of the three-phases to the opening of dental care services in Scotland. And, earlier this week, the CDO Wales issued plans for the restoration of dental care services in Wales.

You can find the [links to COVID-19 guidance, by country, on our website](#).

Treating patients in private practice

As people across the UK consider how to release services from lockdown safely and responsibly, we have received a number of new enquiries from those of you in private practice about opening to see patients in need of treatment. We wanted to confirm the position for you here.

Decisions about offering dental care, are for the professional responsible. The GDC cannot require providers of dental care services to close.

As always, all professionals should work in a way which ensures the health, safety and wellbeing of their patients and colleagues and should only provide treatment where it is safe for them to do so. The process of determining whether it is safe will involve carrying out the necessary risk assessments and having proper regard to relevant information from Chief Dental Officers and other competent authorities, regardless of whether the treatment is NHS or private.

And, of course, should a concern be raised with us that indicates patients or others have been put at risk, we are duty bound to investigate. Evidence that the treatment given followed an appropriate, informed and detailed risk assessment will be extremely important in determining the outcome.

Visit our [website for further COVID-19 guidance](#).

How has the DCS been performing?

While we have been very focused on issues relating to the pandemic, we are also making efforts to release reports and the results of research completed before the outbreak in the UK. To this end, three reports were recently published on the performance, efficacy, and social value of the Dental Complaints Service (DCS), provided to patients, the public, and dental professionals. These are:

- [Social Return on Investment of the DCS](#)
- [DCS Survey of Dental Professional Users](#)
- [The DCS Review 2019](#)

Together, these reports indicate improved performance and significant support for the assistance provided by the DCS. To find out more about the DCS, please [visit the website](#).

Medical Device Regulation, delayed implementation

The EU has approved a proposal to delay the introduction of the Medical Device Regulation (MDR) until 26 May 2021. This means that the full applicability of the MDR will fall outside of the UK transition period. The MDR looks to introduce new requirements for those who manufacture devices, most notably the need to provide a 'statement of manufacture' to patients.

The UK government has stated that it is taking steps to plan for after the end of the transition period and that they will provide guidance on this in due course.

[Visit the gov.uk website](#) for further information.