



Latest updates from the GDC - February 2020

Moving upstream: how far have we come?

We have today [published our Moving upstream report](#), providing a timely update on progress made against the proposals set out in Shifting the balance, including the following key pieces of work:

- Enhanced CPD has been fully rolled out and we have started a conversation about a future model for lifelong learning. One which supports maintaining and improving the quality of care and is both flexible and meaningful for dental professionals. Over the last year, we have completed a review of CPD literature and worked with the professions and stakeholders on what form a future model might take.
- We have supported the work being led by the professions to realise the benefits of local complaint resolution. The profession-wide complaints handling initiative is now helping to resolve complaints at a local level and to deliver a culture of learning and public and patient engagement.
- Our fitness to practise review has led to efficiency gains and improved the timeliness of our casework. Communications to those involved in investigations are now easier to understand and strike a neutral tone, recognising that in a lot of cases, there is no case to answer. The introduction of an online triage system to our website, for those considering if they wish to raise a concern, is also speeding up the process.

Our upstream work, and how it will adapt to the new challenges and opportunities facing dentistry, will be explored at our Moving Upstream conference being held on 12 February in London.



UK dental patterns working survey, now open

If you're a primary care dentist who has performed dentistry for NHS England, NHS Wales, NHS Scotland or the Health Service in Northern Ireland in 2018/19 or 2019/20, we would like to invite you to respond to the dental patterns working survey.

The survey findings are considered in deliberations on pay and expenses by the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration, so please take the time to complete the survey to help ensure that well-evidenced decisions can be reached. The findings will also provide a picture of dentists' working patterns, motivation and moral.

The survey can be found on the [NHS Digital website](#) and will take just a few minutes to complete. You will need to have your GDC registration number to hand. Please complete as soon as possible or by **Monday 24 February** at the latest.



Seeking new Council members

We are now recruiting three new Council members.

We are seeking two dental professionals and one lay member to join our Council this year. We are looking for people who are strategically minded and who can help to guide us through this period of change and challenge. To ensure our Council represents the whole of the UK, we are particularly looking for people who live or work mainly in Wales or Northern Ireland.

Our agent is Saxton Bampfylde and you will find further details about the role and how to apply by [visiting their website](#) and entering the code **AZNF**. Applications should be received by **noon on Friday 21 February 2020**.

Trialling new time limits for Rule 4 Stage, observations

We recently announced the launch of a nine-month pilot to trial changes to the Rule 4 stage of the Fitness to Practise process. The Rule 4 stage allows for comments or observations to be submitted in response to any concern(s) raised. The pilot will run until the end of October 2020. The changes being piloted are:

- Those subject to a fitness to practise investigation can request a 14-day extension to the current 28-day time limit to submit their observations.
- And, we will disclose any clinical assessment, when it is received, to assist with the formulation of detailed and informed observations.

The changes are only being applied in clinical cases of a certain type. The criteria for case inclusion can be found on [our website](#). The pilot has been introduced in response to feedback we received during the end to end review of the Fitness to Practise process,

and were consulted on last year. You can find the consultation outcome report on [our website](#).

SNOMED CT: Information standard mandated from 1 April

SNOMED CT is the international information standard for clinical terminology. It is published by [SNOMED International](#) and provides a common language for health terms.

The Department of Health and Social Care has now approved the SNOMED CT information standard and mandated that all systems involved in the care of individuals in dentistry in **England** must use it by 1 April 2020. All practices that hold an NHS England contract and any provider that does, or intends to, interact with the NHS for the provision of a course of treatment will need to ensure that their practice management systems comply.

The new standards will ensure that a much greater granularity of information can be gathered than with the current information vocabularies. For further information on SNOMED CT and the requirements, please [visit the NHS Digital website](#).



Costed Corporate Plan 2020, now published

Giving further detail to our strategic plans, we have [now published our Costed Corporate Plan 2020](#). The plan sets out our work programme for the year and promotes greater

New Head of Scottish Affairs

We welcomed [Gordon Matheson CBE as our new Head of Scottish Affairs](#) on 6 January. Gordon joins the GDC with a wealth of experience in local government and public affairs in Scotland.

understanding of the relationship
between our regulatory activity and our
fees.

Brexit: information for dental professionals

Information about how Brexit affects dental professionals with qualifications from the EEA and Switzerland who practise, or want to practise, in the UK has now been [published on our website](#). While the UK has left the EU, we are now in a transition period, which will likely last until 31 December 2020. We will provide further updates, as and when they become available.