

Welcome to NES Dental Clinical Effectiveness

Welcome to the October 2020 edition of the Dental Clinical Effectiveness Newsletter. In this edition you will find details on the Mitigation of Aerosol Generating Procedures Rapid Review, CAREER update and Virtual In-practice training.



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SDCEP - The Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme [www.sdcep.org.uk]

TRiADS - Translation Research in a Dental Setting [www.triads.org.uk]

SDPBRN - The Scottish Dental Practice Based Research Network [www.sdpbrn.org.uk]

QliPT - Quality Improvement in Practice Training

SDPGF - Scottish Dental PG Fellowship

Mitigation of Aerosol Generating Procedures in Dentistry

SDCEP, with the support of Cochrane Oral Health, has conducted a rapid review of the evidence related to the mitigation of aerosol generating procedures in dentistry and the associated risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19).

It is important to stress that this document does not have the status of guidance. The aim of this rapid review was to identify and appraise the evidence related to several pre-determined key questions about AGPs in dentistry and to use a process of considered judgement of this evidence and other relevant factors to reach agreed positions that may be used to inform policy and clinical guidance.

To conduct this review, SDCEP convened a multidisciplinary Working Group comprising subject specialists from disciplines including particle physics, aerobiology and clinical virology, in addition to those performing multiple roles within dentistry. Representatives from all four of the devolved UK nations participated in the work of the Group.

The methodology used for the development of this guidance, including details of the scope, evidence search strategy, evidence appraisal and the considered judgement process can be found in the Rapid Review Methodology document is available on the SDCEP website.

The agreed position statements presented in this document are based on the evidence available at the time of publication. In view of the constantly evolving COVID-19 situation, this is a living document and the Working Group will continue to assess new evidence to maintain currency of the document in the coming months.

The review is now available to download <https://www.sdcep.org.uk/published-guidance/covid-19-practice-recovery/rapid-review-of-agps/>



Aerosol Generating Procedures in dentistry survey

A national survey, to better understand the provision of aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) in dentistry and the challenges faced by dental teams during the COVID-19 pandemic has been conducted by SDCEP. Invitations to complete the survey were distributed to dentists working in the General Dental Service, Public Dental Service and Hospital Dental Service, and to therapists, hygienists and hygiene-therapists via the NES Portal. Notice of the survey was also given via Twitter and professional networks known to SDCEP.

SDCEP would like to thank everyone who completed the survey which closed on 24 September 2020 and received almost 3000 responses. Its findings will help inform policy makers and guideline developers about the challenges faced by dentists and dental teams in this area of practice.

On completion of data analysis, a summary of the findings will be available at <https://www.triads.org.uk/in-development/covid-19/>

Periodontal Care Guidance

In 2014 SDCEP published the 'Prevention and Treatment of Periodontal Diseases in Primary Care' clinical guidance. Since then there have been several developments in periodontology including a new disease classification as well as the results of the IQuaD randomised control trial.

In response to these developments, TRiaDS has begun scoping work to inform an update to this guidance. The aim of this scoping work is to explore dental teams' current practice and their beliefs with regards to the diagnosis and management of periodontal diseases in primary care.

To address this aim, a questionnaire was developed regarding the diagnosis of patients with periodontal diseases, alongside an accompanying optional CPD module. Both were sent to dentists and dental hygienists and therapists throughout Scotland in July. In light of COVID-19, questions regarding the use of personal protective equipment in relation to aerosol generating procedures were also included. The survey was well received, with more than 500 participants. Two hundred also completed the CPD module.

The data from the questionnaire is in the process of being analysed and further development of a second questionnaire focusing on management of periodontal diseases is currently underway.

Practice Support Manual Webinar - Coming soon!

Over the summer, Alice Miller – a GDP, Practice Owner, VT Advisor, Chair of the SDCEP Decontamination subgroup and part of the Practice Support Manual team delivered 2 webinars titled "Practice Support Manual and its Relevance to Dental Practice". More than 750 delegates logged on to watch the live sessions.

We have good news for those who missed it, or would like to watch again, as a copy of the webinar will soon be available online. Details of when and where to find the webinar will be announced on our Twitter page [@NESDental](https://twitter.com/NESDental) and in the next edition of our newsletter.



CAREER-Update

There has been very good engagement in the CAREER research project so far by trainee dental professionals in Scotland. Initially targeted at Vocational Dental Practitioners & Therapists and Dental Core & Specialty trainees, the opportunity to participate in this research was widened to include Trainee Dental Nurses and Trainee Orthodontic Therapists undertaking their Pre-registration Dental Nurse Training with NHS Education for Scotland. Over 100 responses were received for the baseline questionnaire and three virtual focus groups have taken place using Microsoft Teams. The focus groups explored trainee experiences, concerns and anxieties during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A significant recent development has been the extension of the CAREER project to include all members of the primary care dental team. Invitations were distributed at the end of July to all Dentists, Dental Nurses, Hygienists, Therapists, Hygiene/Therapists and Orthodontic Therapists working in a dental primary care setting in Scotland and who are signed up to receiving NES Portal updates. To date 170 responses have been received for the baseline questionnaire of which a good proportion have also expressed interest in completing an online diary and/or taking part in a virtual focus group. The first set of primary care dental team focus groups are being organised for October, with a second set anticipated to take place towards the end of the project.

Virtual In-practice training

At present, due to the current Covid-19 situation, QIIPs are unable to provide face to face in-practice training sessions on infection control and decontamination.

Following successful delivery of a series of successful webinars, a new virtual training session for the whole team is being developed. Sessions will be developed following scoping we are about to undertake.

This is to ensure these sessions meet practice requirements and address common issues some might face in relation to applying infection prevention and control measures at this current time. Further details will follow when available.

CPD Webinar - A CPD webinar is taking place on the 29th of October and is now fully booked. A further date will be released soon via the NES Portal.



Homeworking

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in line with government guidance on social distancing, NES staff are continuing to work from home wherever possible. All Clinical Effectiveness staff are currently working from home and have adapted the way we work to reflect this.

Our staff continue to be contactable at scottishdental.cep@nes.scot.nhs.uk.