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Population Health Directorate  
Chief Dental Officer & Dentistry Division



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

E: [ps/cdo@gov.scot](mailto:ps/cdo@gov.scot)

15 April 2020

Dear Chief Executive,

### **New National Guidance on Provision of Urgent Dental Care during Covid-19 Outbreak**

My purpose in writing is to provide you with guidance that supersedes all previous national and local guidance for dentistry during the COVID-19 period.

As you will be aware, on the 23 March all routine dental care in Scotland ceased, previously on the 17 March all aerosol generating procedures (AGP) had ceased. NHS Boards were then asked to set up urgent dental care centres to operate 7 days per week to continue to see patients with acute dental problems. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your dental teams for how quickly these new arrangements for continuing to see patients were put in place.

The guidance reflects recent 4-country discussions on what constitutes AGPs in urgent care dentistry. The four UK Chief Dental Officers asked Public Health England (PHE) to bring together a group of dental and infection prevention and control colleagues to explore the issue of which urgent dental treatments are AGPs. This has now been agreed and the findings are supported by the Royal Colleges, the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners and specialist dental societies.

The guidance is available at the following link on the Health Protection Scotland website:

<https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-annex-1-infection-prevention-and-control-in-urgent-dental-care-settings-during-the-period-of-covid-19/>

Yours sincerely,

Tom Ferris  
Chief Dental Officer

