


NHS DENTAL PAYMENTS SYSTEM

*David Notman
Chief Dental Officer & Dentistry Division*

NHS Dental Services

- The majority of General Dental Practitioners (GDPs) are non-salaried independent contractors
 - GDPs make arrangements with NHS Boards to provide NHS dental care and treatment
 - As independent contractors GDPs can provide a mixture of NHS and private treatment
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NHS Dental Services

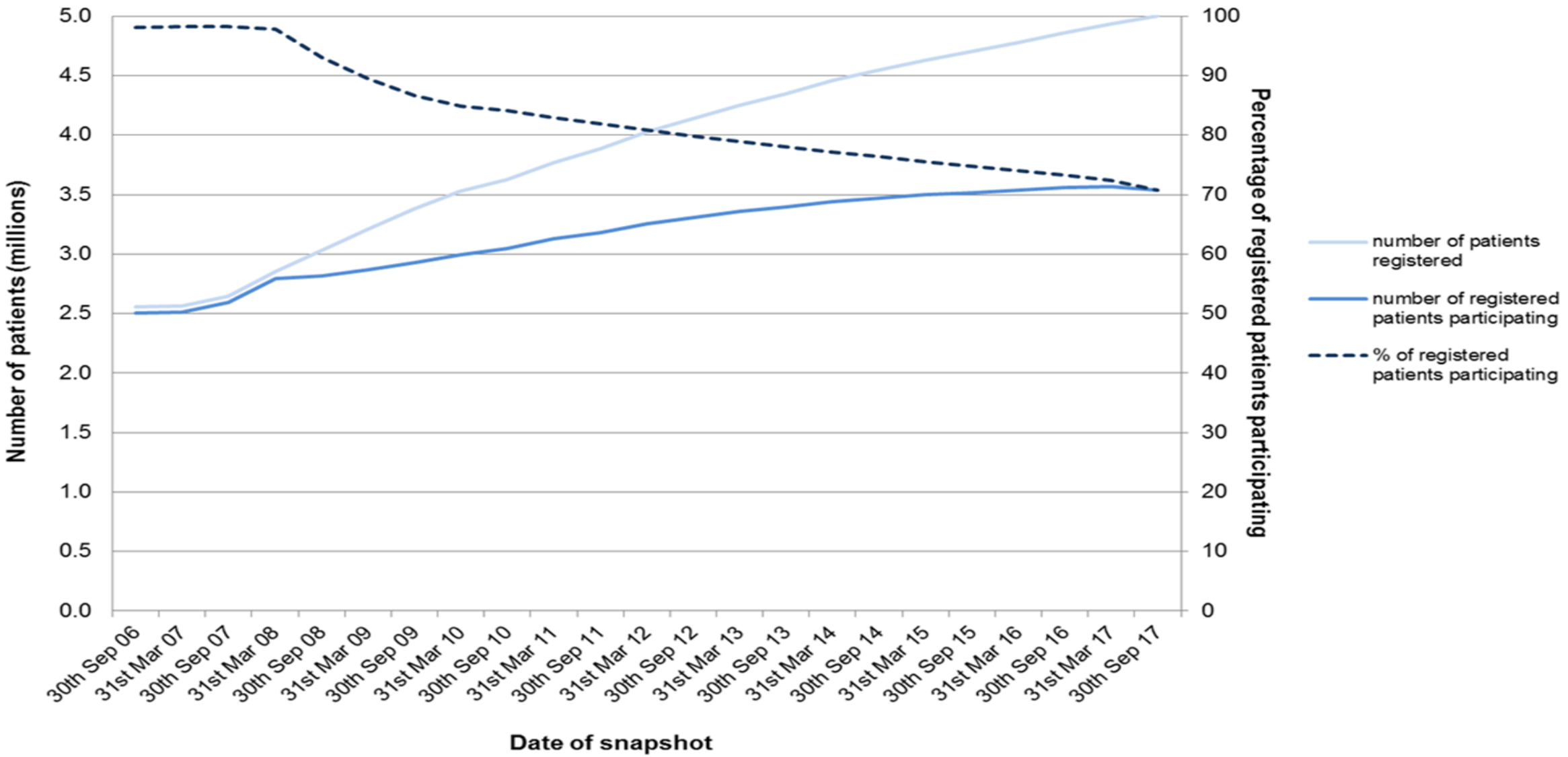
To provide NHS treatment a dentist must apply to be included on the dental list in the NHS Board area that they want to work.

GDPs can list as a:

- Principal dentist – owners, directors or partners of a dental practice; or
- Associate dentist – self-employed GDPs who enter into arrangements with principal GDPs that is neither partnership nor employment.

Dental Bodies Corporate can also apply to join the dental list if the majority of the directors are registered dentists and/or dental care professionals (DCPs).

Growth in NHS Activity



Item of Service

- There are over 400 items of service each of which has a set fee.
 - GPs are paid through item of service payments – i.e. a payment linked to a clinical procedure undertaken.
 - £280.3 million was paid to dentists in 2017/18 for item of service fees, capitation and continuing care payments.
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Dental Charges

- ❖ At present patients pay 80% of the cost of their NHS dental treatment up to a maximum of £384 per course of treatment.
 - ❖ £280.3 million was paid to dentists in 2017/18 for item of service fees, capitation and continuing care payments
 - ❖ Exemptions are available for people in receipt of certain benefits, pregnant women and nursing mothers.
 - ❖ All children and young people under 18 years of age are entitled to free NHS care
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Capitation and Continuing Care Payments

Dentists receive a regular payment for every NHS patient that is registered with them.

Capitation payments

- Monthly payment for every child that is registered
- Basic fee for care and treatment, including examinations, radiographs and preventive care
- Deprivation weighting for patients with a postcode in SIMD 1-3

Continuing Care payments

- Monthly payment for every adult patient that is registered
- Deprivation weighting for patients with a postcode in SIMD 1-3

Pay Awards

Item of service fees are increased annually through the pay award.


The pay award is made up of two components:

1. a pay element;
 2. an expenses element, to compensate for any increase in business expenses related to provision of NHS care and treatment
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Each year the Doctor's and Dentists' Review Body (DDRB) make a recommendation on pay, net of expenses

- they no longer make a recommendation on expenses due to a lack of robust evidence

Pay Awards (cont.)

- SG have carried out a number of expenses exercise to try and get more robust data but have had limited success
 - The overall pay award is usually higher than the DDRB recommendation due to the expenses element
 - The pay award is calculated using a weighted average of an Expenses to Earnings Ratio (EER) 55:45
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General Dental Practice Allowance (GDPA)

The GDPA is to help with practice requirements for providing high quality premises, such as, health and safety and staffing costs

All practices can claim 6% of the accumulative gross earnings of the dentists in the practice as long as:

- all dentists are included on a dental list
- the practice has had a satisfactory practice inspection in last 3 years
- maintain or increase patient registration level

Practices can claim an additional 6% if they are 'deemed NHS committed' or 3% if they are 'partially NHS committed'.

General Dental Practice Allowance (GDPA)

The allowance payable is capped at £80,000.

Practices are 'deemed committed' if they also have:

- an average of 500 registered patients per dentist (100 of which must be fee paying)
- average gross earnings of £50,000 per dentist

Practices are 'partially committed' if they have:

- an average of 500 registered patients per dentist (100 of which must be fee paying)

Recruitment and Retention Allowance

'Golden-hello' allowances are available to dentists joining a dental list in certain areas within 3 months of completing vocational training.

- Dentists in 'designated' areas (Island Boards) can claim an allowance of £25,000 over two years.
 - An allowance of £10,000 can be claimed in 'non-designated' areas (certain areas within NHS Borders, NHS Dumfries & Galloway, NHS Grampian and NHS Highland).
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Recruitment and Retention Allowance (cont.)

Other dentists who join a dental list in these areas for the first time or re-join after 5 years can claim

- £15,000 over two years in 'designated' areas
- £5,000 in 'non-designated areas'

In order to be eligible dentists also have to:

- continue providing GDS in that area for 3 years following the first payment
 - ensure that at least 80% of their earnings are from NHS earnings
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Remote Areas Allowance

An allowance of up to £9,000 is available to GDPs providing GDS on an island or mainland area which has less than 0.5 persons per hectare

The amount of allowance is determined by level of NHS commitment

- 90% or more NHS committed receive the full £9,000
 - For every 10% reduction in level of NHS commitment 10% is abated
 - For example, if earnings are 50% NHS allowance is reduced by 40%
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Seniority Allowance

The seniority payment is made to reward dentists over the age of 55, who stay within the NHS and continue to undertake NHS dentistry.

The annual maximum payment is £3,928 per quarter.

Legal uncertainty around the future of this particular allowance.

Maternity, paternity, adoption and sick leave payments

| | | Maximum Payment per week |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Maternity leave up to 26 weeks | ⇒ | £1,399 |
| Paternity leave up to 26 weeks | ⇒ | £1,399 |
| Adoption leave up to 26 weeks | ⇒ | £1,399 |
| Long term sickness up to 22 weeks | ⇒ | £349 |

GDPs can claim CPD allowance payments for up to 6 full sessions (between 2 and 3.5 hours) of verifiable CPD.

Amount of CPD allowance - £231.10 per session

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Allowance

Dentist Eligibility

- They are paid not less than £27,800 per year; or
- At least 90% of their earnings are attributable to NHS earnings
- Otherwise abatement applies.

Commitment Payments

| Gross NHS Earnings | Quarterly Payment |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| £27,800 - £49,499.99 | £135 (level 1 payment) |
| £49,500 - £65,499.99 | £456 (level 2 payment) |
| £65,500 - £77,999.99 | £588 (level 3 payment) |
| £78,000 - £89,999.99 | £704 (level 4 payment) |
| £90,000 - £103,999.99 | £822 (level 5 payment) |
| £104,000 - £116,499.99 | £934 (level 6 payment) |
| £116,500 - £128,999.99 | £1,055 (level 7 payment) |
| £129,000 - £142,499.99 | £1,173 (level 8 payment) |
| £142,500 - £155,999.99 | £1,289 (level 9 payment) |
| £156,000 or more | £1,406 (level 10 payment) |

Eligibility:

- be fully or partially NHS committed
- maintain or increase patient registration level
- submit an accountant's declaration each year stating the proportion for NHS earnings to the earnings as a whole
- have a satisfactory premises inspection within the last 3 years

Reimbursement of Practice Rental Costs

The amount paid is the current market rent or the actual lease costs, whichever is lower.

- Any areas of the practice not used for providing GDS are excluded
- Final amounts is abated by the proportion of non-NHS earnings

Scottish Dental Access Initiative (SDAI)

In 1997, the Scottish Dental Access Initiative (SDAI) was introduced to improve access to General Dental Services (GDS) in parts of Scotland.

Establish new or extend existing NHS dental practices in a designated area where the relevant NHS Board has identified particular areas where access to GDS is poor (unmet demand)

Scottish Dental Access Initiative (SDAI)

Grants are available:

- Up to £100,000 towards the cost of establishing a new NHS dental practice (with an additional £25,000 per additional surgery);
- Up to £50,000 for extending an existing NHS dental practice (with an additional £25,000 per additional surgery).

Areas currently included are:

- Lochgilphead within NHS Highland
 - Dalmellington and Patna within NHS Ayrshire and Arran
 - Lerwick within NHS Shetland
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Summary

- ❖ GDPs – Independent Contractor Model
 - ❖ Mix of payments, Item of Service, Capitation and Continuing Care, Direct Reimbursement of Practice Expenses, Allowance Payments
 - ❖ Certain aspects relevant to employment model (i.e. superannuation)
 - ❖ Private versus Public Interface/Abatement
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