

# DENTAL NEWSLETTER

## 1. Deadline for Cash Grant Scheme

You will be aware that the deadline for the submission of receipts/invoices to the Board for the Cash Grant Scheme is **30 November 2005**. Failure to produce an invoice or a proforma invoice by the deadline will result in the practices losing their grant allocation. We appreciate that in some cases, due to the availability of equipment or staff to fit equipment, invoices/receipts may not be available before this date. In those circumstances practitioners should submit written confirmation from the supplier of the order including the value of the order and expected date of completion to the Board by 30 November 2005 so that we can reserve their allocation. If you have any queries concerning the Cash Grant Scheme, please contact us at the Board on 25311028 as soon as possible.

## 2. Warfarin Guidance to Doctors

The Board is in the process of producing guidance on Warfarin for General Medical Practitioners. One element of this relates to patients receiving dental treatment. To ensure that dentists are aware of the information being sent out to doctors a summary of the guidance is given below.

### Guidelines for Warfarin patients undergoing dental treatment

- Advice depends on the patient's INR and the level of trauma associated with the proposed dental procedure;
- For patients awaiting elective dental procedures who are taking Warfarin for a limited period (e.g. 6 months for a DVT) then the procedure should be postponed until the Warfarin has been stopped;

- For patients on long-term Warfarin treatment (e.g. atrial fibrillation, recurrent venous thromboembolism, mechanical heart valves) requiring moderately complex dental surgery (e.g. multiple extractions) the Warfarin does not need to be stopped providing their INR is < 3.0;
- If the INR is greater than 3.0 or more complex procedures are proposed, the dentist should seek advice from a Consultant Oral Surgeon or Consultant Maxillo-Facial Surgeon;
- An INR should be measured on the day of the procedure;
- Warfarin patients with renal or hepatic disease or those on chemotherapy or cytotoxics should have dental procedures in hospital.

## 3. Fissure Sealant Uptake

Figures released by the DHSSPS to the Boards show a relatively low uptake of the new 0701 code (fissure sealants for preventive reasons). In the past there has been some confusion among practitioners regarding the use of 1441 code (fissure sealants for restorative reasons). The introduction of the new 0701 code simplifies the situation. Dentists are able to claim for fissure sealants placed for preventive reasons on:

- First Permanent Molar teeth for children aged under 8;
- Second Permanent Molar teeth for children aged under 12;
- Third Molar teeth within two years of eruption.

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(see over)

Fees are payable for fissure sealants placed on other teeth and/or in other age groups but **prior approval is required**. The current age restrictions for first/second permanent molars exclude a significant number of children from this preventive intervention and we understand that in the light of this the Department is reviewing the age bands. The Board recommends that practitioners refer to MDS 655 sent to all NI GDPs in April 2005 for a full description of the conditions that apply to the new 0701 code.

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## 4. Special Waste

In August 2005 the CSA issued MDS 659 which relates to new arrangements for the collection of dental special waste. The Regional Supplies Service, a branch of the CSA, have awarded the NI wide contract for the collection and disposal of special waste from dental surgeries to Cannon Hygiene Ltd. The contract is to run to 30 June 2007.

Practitioners wishing to take up the contract with Cannon Hygiene should contact them directly and register their intention to participate in the scheme. Details are given below. This service is free of charge to dentists and will be paid by the CSA. **It is important that when your waste is collected, you obtain written proof of collection from Cannon Hygiene.** Cannon Hygiene will then invoice the CSA who will use your written proof of collection to validate the invoice.

A number of dentists have contacted the Board to say that they have been approached by AMT, another waste collector, saying that Cannon Hygiene contract is not yet in effect or not applicable to Practitioners. The Board have contacted Cannon Hygiene and CSA and we have been reassured that this is not the case and that Cannon Hygiene hold the regional

contract for the collection of special waste from dental surgeries.

Contact details:

Caroline McMahon  
Waste Station Manager, Cannon Hygiene  
90 86 50 05 or

Philip Blakely  
Sales Consultant, Cannon Hygiene  
07776 164 151

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## 5. Primary Dental Care Strategy

The DHSSPS plans to release the Primary Dental Care Strategy in the next few weeks. This document will set out the framework for how both General Dental Services and Community Dental Services will be organised in the coming years. The Strategy is going out to consultation for a 3 month period. Given the importance of this document the NHSSB is trying to facilitate the consultation process by organising a series of roadshows in January 2006. All NHSSB dentists and their staff will be invited to the roadshow events along with other key stakeholders such as PCDs, LHSCGs, Local Councillors and patient representatives. Full details on the content of the roadshows, venues and dates will follow in due course.

\*\*\*\*\* **STOP PRESS** \*\*\*\*\*

Just today (3 November) we have received the enclosed flyer from the WHSSB. Would any dentists interested in this course contact Dr Brendan J Flanagan, 3 Wine Street, Sligo  
Tel No: 071 60953

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