

Dental COVID-19 Financial Support Payment

Questions & Answers v13.0 – 02/03/2021 (* = new/updated since last version)

1) Calculation of Practitioner Financial Support Payment, Who the Payment Applies To, and Conditions of Payment

Ref	Question	Answer
1.1*	How will the top up calculation be made?	<p>The top up will be based on the monthly average calculation using the following <i>Account 7</i> lines:</p> <p>(Line 3 + line 37) x 85% for the relevant assessment period, less gross item of service (IOS) for authorised claims for that month.</p> <p>From 1st November 2020, NHS dental contractors who are in receipt of a COVID top up payment should have had that payment increased from 80% to 85% of their gross item of service income, based on the original baseline assessment period from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.</p> <p>There is no additional requirement for practices to submit any information in relation to this particular change.</p> <p>Conditions of Financial Support</p> <p>On 5th January the Chief Dental Officer announced there would be a delay of 3 months in the introduction of a system of tiered financial support, originally scheduled for 1st March 2021.</p> <p>https://nhsnss.org/media/5069/cdo-letter-covid-19-restrictions-5-january-2021.pdf</p> <p>Scottish Government is currently in discussion with representatives of the dental profession to determine how this will be measured. Practitioner Services has no other information at this stage.</p> <p>Further details are provided in the Memorandum to PCA(D)(2020)13, which can be found at:</p> <p>https://nhsnss.org/media/4460/pca-d-2020-13.pdf</p>
1.2	To which list number will the top up payment be made?	<p>The payment will be paid via the NHS schedule of each active list number and mandated to the designated bank account. This will be reported in the NHS payment schedule for each list number, via the eSchedules platform.</p>

1.3	What period of time is used to calculate the top up?	The baseline assessment period is the 2019/20 financial year (1 st April 2019 to 31 st March 2020), which also aligns to the tax year. This is the March paid April 2019 through to and including the February paid March 2020 schedule. The March paid April 2020 schedule is not included in the assessment period since COVID-19 restrictions were implemented part way through that month.
1.4	Which Account 7 line will the payment be reported on?	From April paid May 2020 onward, the payment is made on line 7 and this is included in the calculation of superannuation. Line 7 payments are included in line 40. In March paid April 2020, the payment was reported on line 13. Line 13 payments are not included in the total at line 40.
1.5	Will there be anything in place to allow dentists to access eSchedules from home?	Currently, this is not technically possible. Access to eSchedules needs to be via a PC connected to the SWAN network within practices.
1.6	I am an associate; will my payment be based on my normal arrangement with the practice?	The Scottish Government's expectation is that associates would receive the normal percentages split of the IOS top up payment scheduled to them. However, we would advise associates to discuss the financial support available to them with the practice owner.
1.7	My associate contract has been terminated by my practice. What happens to my payment?	If your associate contract is terminated, you should immediately contact your NHS Board who will advise Practitioner Services. The COVID-19 financial support payment would cease.
1.8	I am an assistant, therapist, or hygienist; what should I expect?	Assistants, hygienists and therapists have contractual arrangements with the practice and discussions around the support available to them should be with the practice owner in the first instance.
1.9	I am a vocational dental practitioner; what financial arrangements apply to me?	Vocational trainees should continue to be paid their normal monthly salary by NHS Education for Scotland. Please also see Section 5 of this FAQ.
1.10	Could dentists or any other practice staff be asked to be part of the urgent care teams?	It is a condition of the financial support measures that there must be no consequential loss of workforce in the practice, as contractors and their practice staff will be required to assist the wider NHS, including the Public Dental Service, when asked by the NHS Board. This was outlined in PCA(D)(2020)7. https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2020(D)7.pdf

1.11	Can I opt out of receiving the COVID-19 financial support payment?	Yes. If you do not wish to receive the payment please, advise Practitioner Services via the <i>COVID-19 Dental Payments</i> email address: nss.psd-dental-payments-covid19@nhs.scot
1.12	I am planning to take up a position in a practice and I require an NHS list number. However, I am required to undertake the Mandatory Training provided by NHS Education for Scotland. The training courses have been impacted by COVID-19 so I cannot join the NHS Board list. Will I receive a payment?	No. You must be on the list of an NHS Board and have a valid list number in order to be considered for a payment. NES is now providing an online Mandatory Training course. Please contact your NHS Board for information.
1.13	Can I claim any payments under the HMRC schemes in addition to the COVID-19 financial support payment?	This is a decision for dentists, not for Practitioner Services. If you are in a mixed practice, you may be able to claim for the private element of your income via these schemes. We would advise you speak to your accountant/professional advisers to determine your course of action. Practitioners should be aware that we are required to share data with HMRC in order to validate taxation and payments.

2) Submission of Claims

2.1	<p>I still have some open courses of treatment, started under Amendment No. 143 to the Statement of Dental Remuneration (SDR).</p> <p>Can I now complete these?</p>	<p>The Memorandum to PCA(D)(2020)10, issued on 9th July 2020, instructed that, for general dentistry, courses of treatment which were started under Amendment No. 143 to the SDR and which could not be completed because they contained items of treatment not included in Amendment No. 145 should be closed and submitted to Practitioner Services marked as 'PFTR'.</p> <p>https://www.scottishdental.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/PCAD202010-Remobilisation-of-NHS-Dental-Services-Phase-3-Memorandum-10-July-2020.pdf</p> <p>Please note, the above advice did not apply to open courses of orthodontic treatment.</p> <p>In the event that a course of treatment, started under Amendment No. 143 (or earlier Amendment), was not closed and instead remained open as at 1st November 2020, the course of treatment can be continued to completion from that date. Paragraph 41 of the Memorandum to PCA(D)(2020)13, issued on 26th October 2020, refers to this:</p> <p>https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2020(D)13.pdf</p> <p>Prior Approval cases</p> <p>Open courses of treatment started under Amendment No. 143 to the SDR (or earlier amendment) will require to be submitted for re-approval unless there has been no change to the approved treatment plan.</p> <p>For previously approved courses of treatment which were closed in accordance with the instructions contained in the Memorandum to PCA(D)(2020)10, a fresh Prior Approval submission will be required where the treatment still to be delivered requires Prior Approval, in accordance with Amendment No. 148 to the SDR and the NHS GDS Regulations.</p> <p>Please note that the Prior Approval limit has been increased to £430 for courses of treatment with an acceptance date on or after 1st November 2020.</p>
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2.2	Has the three month rule been reinstated?	The normal rule is that practices must submit completed claims within three months from the date of completion of treatment. The SDR allows exceptions to this rule, at the discretion of the Scottish Dental Practice Board (SDPB) in exceptional circumstances. The “three month rule” had been suspended since 1 st March 2020, however Section XV of Determination I of Amendment No. 148 to the SDR reinstates the three-month time limit for submission of completed treatments. Therefore, any claims submitted on or after 1 st November 2020 will be subject to this time limit, irrespective of the acceptance date on the claim. Practices are urged to submit claims as timeously as possible.
2.3	Why has the claim cut-off date been moved forward for the last three months?	In order to calculate the COVID-19 financial support payments, we need extra time, because this process is complicated. We are reviewing dates for future schedules and will advise any changes through the normal process.

3) Information for Contractors Who Have Not Been in Practice in Scotland over the Last 12 months, Have Moved Practices, or In Relation to Maternity, Paternity or Sickness Absence

Ref	Question	Answer
3.1	I have not worked in Scotland for a full 12 months? What will I be paid?	<p>We recognise that some contractors may only have been working in Scotland for a short time and will not have a full 12 months' NHS gross item of service payments in 2019/20 to calculate the top up payment.</p> <p>In such cases, the top up will be based on an average of their relevant NHS Scotland gross item of service payments that are available.</p> <p>Please complete a “Dentist Joining Practice form”, available to download:</p>

3.2	I have worked at more than one practice during the last 12 months; on what basis will I be paid?	We recognise that some associates will have moved practice within the last year and will not therefore have a full 12 months' NHS gross item of service payments in their current practice. In such cases the top up may be calculated as an average of the contractor's NHS gross item of service payments in their current practice, where there is sufficient stability of income there to form the basis of the top up.
3.3	I am pregnant. What should I do and how will that affect me financially?	<p>Current advice from the <i>Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG)</i> and the <i>British Dental Association (BDA)</i> states that, if there are no underlying health conditions, pregnancy does not present a greater risk of contracting coronavirus than for someone who is not pregnant.</p> <p>https://www.rcog.org.uk/globalassets/documents/guidelines/2020-0724-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-in-pregnancy.pdf</p> <p>https://www.bda.org/advice/Coronavirus/Pages/facts.aspx</p> <p>There is an increased risk after 28 weeks of becoming ill, should you contract any viral infection, including coronavirus. As a contractor, you are likely to be self-employed and therefore it is your own decision as to whether you continue to work. Should you, following an appropriate risk assessment, choose not to continue to work beyond 28 weeks, you have the option of taking the Maternity Allowance from 29 weeks.</p> <p>Maternity Allowance can be paid from 11 weeks before the expected date of confinement (see Determination V in SDR). COVID top up and Maternity Allowance cannot be paid concurrently to the same list number.</p> <p>No COVID financial support payment can be made in respect of a locum until they have assumed responsibility for the continuing care of your patients, by way of a bulk transfer.</p>
3.4	I am pregnant and I have COVID-19 or I am pregnant and self-isolating; what happens to me?	If you are pregnant and have COVID-19 or are self-isolating, and are currently in receipt of COVID top up, you will continue to be entitled to COVID top up until you are fit to work again, OR are entitled to claim Maternity Allowance payments, in accordance with the SDR (from 29 weeks). COVID top ups cannot be paid concurrently with either Long-term Sickness Allowance or Maternity Allowance.

3.5	I am in receipt of Maternity Allowance payments but am due to return to work soon. How do I receive a COVID payment?	Please complete a “Returning from Maternity Leave form”, available to download at: https://nhsnss.org/media/4474/maternity_form_v02.pdf Please note, a new calculation cannot be made until a bulk transfer has been completed.
3.6	I am currently in receipt of Maternity Allowance payments. Do I get a top up?	If you are in receipt of Maternity Allowance payments, in accordance with Determination V of the SDR, you are not entitled to COVID financial support, in addition to this.
3.7	I have COVID-19 or am self-isolating; what happens to me?	We recognise that some contractors may go off sick as they have COVID-19, or are self-isolating as they may have COVID-19. To note sickness payments under general dental services are not payable for the first 4 weeks of absence.
3.8	Deleted	Deleted
3.9	I am in receipt of a COVID support payment. Can I also claim Paternity Allowance?	No, both payments cannot be made concurrently. If you decide to claim Paternity Allowance, the COVID payment will cease for that period.
3.10	I have been working providing locum maternity cover and I am currently receiving a COVID top-up. The practice wants me to stay on as an associate once the other dentist’s period of maternity leave is over. Will I continue to receive a top-up?	In this circumstance, you would, in effect, become “incremental to the practice” and your top-up payment would therefore cease when the other dentist returned to work unless you the dentist returned on a reduced or part time basis. Each situation is different however and we would encourage you to contact us so we can make a decision based on the actual information available to us.
3.11	I am currently pregnant and becoming increasingly anxious about the prospect of providing face to face dental care beyond 28 weeks. Can I triage patients instead and continue to receive my COVID top-up until my planned date of maternity leave?	The advice BDA makes it clear that it is your decision as a self-employed contractor, whether you continue to provide direct dental care beyond 28 weeks. A dental practice is considered a safe environment if all relevant guidance is followed. The previous guidance in relation triage dates back to March and April 2020, when routine dental care was suspended and less was known about the effect of COVID on pregnancy. Clinical triage was a necessary aspect of the onward referral protocol to UDCCs. Since practices have re-opened and a full range of SDR items can now be provided, the nature of triaging has changed and much of this can be carried out by other practice staff.

		<p>It should also be remembered that any decision you make regarding whether to work or not beyond 28 weeks will likely have a direct impact on both your colleagues and patients. The practice may not be able to fund locum cover until you are in receipt of Maternity Allowance (thereby allowing a COVID top-up to be considered for the locum) [see related advice under 7.2]. Specific arrangements for locum cover may form part of your local associate agreement and are not the concern of Practitioner Services</p> <p>You may wish to consider the following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stop working (providing dental care) at 28 weeks, in which case you are able to claim Maternity Allowance from week 29, or - Stop working at 28 weeks and delay claiming Maternity Allowance until your preferred date. COVID payments will cease from the date you stopped assuming responsibility for the dental care of your patients, or - Carry on working with appropriate PPE, where possible, until your chosen date of maternity leave.
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4) Payment of Allowances

4.1	<p>Will GDPA, rent and individual Commitment Allowance payments be affected?</p>	<p>Practices in receipt of these allowance payments will continue to receive them as part of the protection measures contained in the financial support package. The baseline for each allowance was March paid April 2020. If your GP234 had not been received by 28th February 2020, then the rent allowance for March paid April 2020 was zero.</p> <p>GDPA payments were increased by 30% (including the GDPA cap) from the June 2020 quarter. In addition, from this quarter the cap was applied on a quarterly basis, rather than on an annual basis, and that cap is £28,600 per quarter.</p>
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4.2	Will the practice still receive Rates Reimbursement Allowance payments?	We are aware that Local Authorities have issued rates notices. Practices should continue to pay these, as they would have done, pre-COVID-19, including applying for the Small Business Rate Relief scheme (if eligible), and should continue to claim rates reimbursement allowance payments from Practitioner Services. If the position changes, and rates notices are retrospectively adjusted, practices would have any payments made to Local Authorities repaid, and Practitioner Services would then recover any reimbursement payments which had been made.
4.3	Will the capping of GDPA still be in operation or will this be suspended?	This section of the SDR has not been amended and so capping will remain in force – however please see 4.1, above.
4.4	My personal Commitment Payment decreased in March paid April. I thought it was being protected?	The personal Commitment Payment is being protected as at 31 March 2021, in line with the PCA. .

5) Information for Vocational Trainers (VTs) and Recently Completed Vocational Dental Practitioners (VDPs)

5.1	I was a trainer in 2019-20; what happens if I have another VDP in the next cohort?	<p>The list number for a trainer is set up in the name of the dental contractor, not the VDP, since the VDP is assisting in the provision of GDS. Therefore, patients registered under this list number are registered with the trainer, not the VDP. With respect to any COVID payment which the VT list number is receiving, this would continue to be paid with the new VDP linked to the VT list number.</p> <p>No action is required on behalf of the trainer.</p>
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5.2	I was a trainer in 2019-20; what happens if I do not have another VDP in the next cohort?	<p>The list number for a trainer is set up in the name of the dental contractor, not the VDP, since the VDP is assisting in the provision of GDS. Therefore, patients registered under this list number are registered with the trainer dentist, not the VDP. With respect to any COVID payment which the trainer list number received, this would not continue to be paid, since condition 10 of the memorandum to PCA(D)(2020)7 would not be met – unless other arrangements were put in place to remediate for the loss in workforce.</p> <p>https://www.scottishdental.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/PCAD202010-Remobilisation-of-NHS-Dental-Services-Phase-3-Memorandum-10-July-2020.pdf</p> <p>The trainer list number should have been resigned, as at 31 July 2020, and the patient registrations transferred to another contractor at that location. No further COVID payment would be due to the trainer list number.</p> <p>A practice could increase the sessional commitment of other dentists already at the practice to compensate, but that would only be possible if dentists were contractually committing to increased hours (and were not already working full time). We may require to see proof of this. Anyone who was already full time could not increase their hours beyond that. If we were satisfied that appropriate arrangements were in place, then the COVID payments could be recalculated on that basis. We would require the dentists involved to complete a 'Dentist Changing Circumstances' form, available by emailing the COVID-19 mailbox:</p> <p>nss.psd-dental-payments-covid19@nhs.scot</p>
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5.3	<p>I was a trainer in 2019-20 and I engaged my VDP as an associate. I am not training in 2020-21.</p>	<p>On the assumption that the full time hours the VDP worked continued to be met as an associate (and therefore condition 10 of PCA(D)(2020)7 was met), then the following would apply:</p> <p>The COVID payments to the trainer list number should have ceased and the trainer list number should have been resigned.</p> <p>A bulk transfer of the patient list (from the trainer's list number) to the new associate list number is required.</p> <p>A top up of £2,899.38 per month (for full time dentists) or 85% of the monthly average of their item of service payments for the period August 2019 to February 2020 (inclusive), whichever is the greater, would be paid to the new associate's list number. Capitation and continuing care payments should be paid to that list number.</p> <p>Please note this is not an automatic payment. The new associate is required to complete a "Dentist Joining Practice" form and complete a bank mandate.</p> <p>https://nhsnss.org/media/4327/dentist_joining_practice_form_v01.pdf</p> <p>If the whole registration base is not transferred to the new associate, they will be assumed not to have assumed full responsibility for that cohort of patients, so the COVID payment would require to be recalculated.</p> <p>If the registrations are not transferred to the new associate, it will be assumed they are incremental to the practice, and no COVID payment would be payable.</p> <p><i>Please also see information at 1.1, above</i></p>
5.4	<p>I am a trainer and my VDP in the 2019-20 cycle became my associate.</p> <p>I also took on a new VDP in 2020-21 cycle.</p> <p>What payments are due?</p>	<p>If the new associate replaced a departing associate, a bulk transfer needs to take place. The COVID top up calculation would either be a top up of £2,899.38 per month (for full time dentists) or 85% of the monthly average of their item of service payments for the period August 2019 to February 2020 (inclusive), whichever is the greater. The trainer list number will continue to receive the COVID top up associated with that list.</p> <p>If the new associate took up a newly created list of patients (a 'new book'), they would be considered incremental to the practice, and no COVID payment is payable.</p>

5.5	Deleted	Deleted
5.6	Deleted	Deleted
5.7	Deleted	Deleted
5.8	<p>I was a VDP in 2019-20 and have stayed on in my current practice, replacing an outgoing associate.</p> <p>Should I have received a COVID top-up payment?</p>	<p>Yes, provided the outgoing associate's patient list was transferred to your new (associate) list number.</p> <p>A top up of £2,899.38 per month (for full time dentists) or 85% of the monthly average of their item of service payments for the period August 2019 to February 2020 (inclusive), whichever is the greater, will be paid to your new (associate) list number. Capitation and continuing care payments will also be paid as appropriate.</p> <p>Please note this is not an automatic payment. The new associate requires to complete a "Dentist Joining Practice form" and an appropriate bank mandate.</p> <p>https://nhsnss.org/media/4327/dentist_joining_practice_form_v01.pdf</p> <p><i>Please also see information at 1.1 above</i></p>
5.9	<p>I was a VDP in 2019-20 and have stayed on in my current practice as an associate. My trainer is not training again this year (2020-21).</p> <p>Should I have received a COVID top-up payment?</p>	<p>Yes, provided the patient list associated with the trainer list number was transferred to your new (associate) list number.</p> <p>A top up of £2,899.38 per month (for full time dentists) or 85% of the monthly average of their item of service payments for the period August 2019 to February 2020 (inclusive), whichever is the greater, will be paid to your new (associate) list number. Capitation and continuing care payments will also be paid, as appropriate.</p> <p>Please note, this is not an automatic payment. The new associate is required to complete a "Dentist Joining Practice form" and an appropriate bank mandate.</p> <p>https://nhsnss.org/media/4327/dentist_joining_practice_form_v01.pdf</p> <p>The COVID top-up to the trainer list number will cease.</p> <p><i>Please also see information at 1.1 above</i></p>

5.10	<p>I was a VDP in 2019-20 and have stayed on in my current practice as an associate, taking over the list of patients that I treated under the trainer's list number.</p> <p>The trainer has taken on a new VDP for 2020-21.</p> <p>Should I have received a COVID top-up payment?</p>	<p>In this situation, as the new associate (ex-VDP) would be incremental to the practice, the COVID payment would continue to be made in respect of the new VDP, therefore no COVID payment would be made to you (the new associate), since the COVID payments associated with IOS for all patients in the practice are continuing to be paid.</p> <p>(see 5.4 above)</p> <p>It would be up to individual practices to apportion fees accordingly.</p>
5.11	<p>I was a VDP and have stayed on in my training practice as an associate.</p> <p>I have started a new list.</p> <p>The list of patients I saw as a VDP will be seen by the new VDP.</p>	<p>In this situation you will be incremental to the practice and no COVID payment can be made to your new list number.</p> <p>A COVID payment will be made to the practice in respect of the VDP (trainer's) list number.</p>
5.12	<p>I was a VDP in 2019-20 and I am moving practice to take up an associate position.</p> <p>Will I get a top up payment in the new role?</p>	<p>If you are taking over from an existing associate AND their list is bulk transferred to you, then you will receive £2,899.38 per month (for full time dentists) or 85% of the monthly average of your item of service payments for the period August 2019 to February 2020 (inclusive), whichever is greater.</p> <p>Capitation and continuing care payments will also be made, as appropriate.</p> <p>Please note this is not an automatic payment. The new associate requires to complete a "Dentist Joining Practice form" and an appropriate bank mandate.</p> <p>https://nhsnss.org/media/4327/dentist_joining_practice_form_v01.pdf</p> <p>If this is a new position that has been created (i.e. you are incremental to the practice) then no COVID payment can be made. It is up to the individual practice to apportion fees accordingly.</p> <p><i>Please also see information at 1.1 above</i></p>

6) Other Topics

6.2	Can I register new patients?	Yes. Since the beginning of Phase 3, it has been possible to register new patients; however, please note that, as the NHS GDS Regulations and Statement of Dental Remuneration remain in force, patients are required to be examined before they can be registered.
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7) Scenarios Frequently Encountered in Queries Submitted to Practitioner Services

7.1	<p>I am an associate. I want to move job but don't know what I will get paid.</p> <p>How will a new COVID payment be calculated?</p>	<p>COVID support payments are made at a contractor level and are not directly related to the patient list. There is a misconception that the COVID support payment is transferable from the outgoing associate; however, no two dentists or two positions are ever identical. Practitioner Services will use <i>your</i> own current COVID payment as a starting point for any calculation, but this will then be adjusted for a number of factors, including relative list sizes, hours worked and declared NHS commitment levels.</p> <p>Practitioner Services is unable to provide forecasts of prospective payments and is only able to make a calculation once a list number is available, the relevant bulk transfer has been completed and other relevant information provided. We would request that, once you can confirm all these details, you complete and submit a "Starting in a new Practice form" via the COVID Payments mailbox.</p> <p>https://nhsnss.org/media/4327/dentist_joining_practice_form_v01.pdf</p>
7.2	<p>I am an associate. I have told my practice principal I want to leave, but they have asked me not to resign my list number so that the COVID payment can continue until they find my replacement.</p> <p>What should I do?</p>	<p>It is a regulatory requirement to provide 3 months' notice to your NHS Board when resigning a list number. The regulatory responsibility lies with the individual contractor, not the practice.</p> <p>It is also a condition of COVID support payments that you are available to provide dental care to your patients. Therefore, having an open list number is not enough in itself to justify continued payment of COVID support payments.</p> <p>If you find another position, a new payment cannot be calculated if you are still in receipt of your previous payment. Likewise, a calculation cannot be made for the dentist replacing you. There are potentially significant knock-on effects for all concerned.</p>

		Practitioner Services may take any appropriate action if a contractor attempts to manipulate COVID payments by providing misleading information.
7.3*	<p>I am an associate, and not familiar with what I need to look out for when I am looking for a new job during this current pandemic.</p> <p>What are the questions I need to ask a prospective employer?</p> <p>What information do I need?</p>	<p>When looking at COVID payment calculations, we will take into account several factors, the most important of which are: the relative list size and relative hours worked.</p> <p>The relative contracted hours or sessions is important too. If your current top up is based on a part-time position and you move to full-time, you would expect that your top up would proportionately increase too. The opposite is also true.</p>
7.4	<p>I own a practice. My associate has told me they intend to leave and I am worried about the possible financial impact on my practice.</p> <p>What will happen if I can't find a replacement associate?</p>	<p>COVID payments are made at contractor level, rather than at a practice level, therefore any change of personnel may have an impact on overall practice income.</p> <p>An incoming associate may likely bring a different level of COVID payment to the outgoing associate since the payments are based on individuals but it is important to recognise however, that the COVID support payments only represent a "safety net" <i>minimum</i> payment and that after 01/11/20 and the introduction of SDR 148, item of service payments can once again be generated.</p> <p>If a new associate cannot be found, it may be that a patient list can be redistributed between other dentists at that location. Also a COVID payment recalculation may be available to other dentists within the practice if they are able to increase their hours in part to accommodate this, however a dentist who is already full time can not increase their hours for the purposes of an increased top up payment.</p> <p>A dentist should submit a change of circumstances form to allow Practitioner Services to review the information and make a recalculation if that is appropriate to do so.</p>

7.5	<p>I have decided that I no longer wish to provide NHS treatment to my patients and want to go private.</p> <p>Will I still get a COVID payment if I deregister my patients?</p>	<p>No - Even if you were previously eligible to receive a COVID payment, the de-registration of your patients would result in the cessation of any further COVID support payments.</p> <p>As 3 months' notice is required, both your local NHS Board and Practitioner Services would expect that you would continue to provide access to dental care for this patient cohort until the period of notice has expired.</p> <p>Should Practitioner Services become aware of any breach of your Terms of Service in this respect, the COVID payment would cease with immediate effect.</p>
7.6	<p>I am a practice owner and I want to redistribute patient lists amongst the dental team.</p> <p>Will this impact on our overall COVID support payments?</p>	<p>As the COVID support payment is paid to individual contractors, based on their previous gross IOS for that patient base, any significant variation to that patient list will likely result in a recalculation of COVID top-ups for the entire practice team.</p> <p>Please get in touch with the COVID payments team for further advice.</p> <p>The overall COVID support level may vary, but it should be remembered that the support payments are a minimum level and not a maximum income ceiling.</p>
7.7	<p>I am struggling to see a fraction of the patients I saw before COVID. I am worried that I am not doing enough to satisfy the minimum levels of activity mentioned in the recent PCA.</p> <p>How much do I need to do?</p>	<p>There was the announcement on 5th January 2021 from the Chief Dental Officer that there would be a delay of 3 months to the introduction of a system of tiered financial support, originally scheduled for 1st March 2021.</p> <p>https://nhsnss.org/media/5069/cdo-letter-covid-19-restrictions-5-january-2021.pdf</p> <p>The Scottish Government is continuing discussions with representatives of the dental profession to determine how this will be measured.</p> <p>Practitioner Services Contractor Finance Team is continuing to carry out financial modelling in support of these discussions.</p> <p>We currently do not know what the activity measures will be. The choice of measure or measures will be communicated to the profession during the transitional period (1st November 2020 to 31st May 2021).</p>

7.8	<p>I am a practice owner. My associate left during recently but their list number wasn't resigned, so that the practice continued to receive their top up and the practice income was maintained during this period of uncertainty. I have been unable to replace them and I am worried that without their COVID top up, the practice won't be financially viable.</p> <p>What should I do?</p>	<p>It is a regulatory requirement to provide 3 months' notice to your local NHS Board when resigning a list number. The regulatory responsibility lies with the individual contractor, not the practice or practice owner.</p> <p>It is also a condition of COVID support payments that you are available to provide dental care to your patients. Therefore, having an open list number is not enough in itself to justify continued payment of COVID support payments</p> <p>COVID support payments are intended to support individual contractors. Other measures, such as the 30% uplift in GDPA have been introduced to support practices and practice owners.</p> <p>Practitioner Services may take appropriate action if a contractor attempts to manipulate payments by providing misleading information.</p>
7.9	<p>Why has my line 7 figure gone down this month? I thought we were getting an increase to 85%?</p>	<p>The COVID top up payment figure on line 7 of the NHS schedule will vary according to how much Gross IOS has been paid to you on each schedule.</p> <p>Gross Item of service is calculated using Line 3 + Line 37 of your Account 7 schedule.</p> <p>The terms for the COVID top-up payments were set out in PCA(D)(2020)7 issued on 2nd April 2020.</p> <p>In particular, paragraph 3.3 states: <i>"where the amount at 3.2 is greater than the contractor's NHS gross item of service earnings for a month they shall <u>pay the difference</u> between these earnings and the 80% as a top-up in the next available schedule"</i></p> <p>With the re-introduction of item of service fees in SDR 148, you may notice that lines 3 and 37 will again show figures other than zero.</p>
7.10	<p>I have taken '24-hour retirement'.</p> <p>Am I still entitled to a COVID support payment?</p>	<p>This depends on your specific circumstances e.g. whether or not you are returning to same hours and patient base as before. You should complete a 'Dentist Joining Practice Form' and submit to Practitioner Services via the dedicated COVID mailbox: nss.psd-dental-payments-covid19@nhs.scot</p> <p>https://nhsnss.org/media/4327/dentist_joining_practice_form_v01.pdf</p> <p>Your local NHS Board and SPPA can advise further.</p> <p>https://pensions.gov.scot/online-services</p>

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