



Stay Connected with NHS Sussex

NHS Sussex Dental Newsletter

July 2025

Pay and conditions circular released

The [2025 Pay and Conditions circular](#) was published on 23 June 2025, confirming a 4% pay award for dentists effective from 1 April 2025, with payment of the uplift and arrears to be paid in August. It also details additional payments for dentists in training.

Action needed on CoMPASS

Providers of Mandatory Dental Services are required to undertake activity on CoMPASS regarding a New Patient Premium (NPP) Self Verification Exercise.

From 30th June a randomised selection of 20–30 NPP patients per contract, will be available on CoMPASS. You will also find a letter and a declaration form within CoMPASS.

Please review your list of patients in line with the guidance in the letter to identify whether the randomised selection of patients are new patients. Once completed, **both the spreadsheet and the signed declaration form must be returned to NHSBSA no later than 28 July 2025.**

NHS England (NHSE) has confirmed that this process will not affect a contractor's year-end position or outcomes. Credits that contributed to the year-end calculation will remain in place, and the year-end position will not be recalculated however NHSE will recover any inappropriate payments identified.

Completion of this verification exercise is a contractual requirement under clauses 211 and 212 of the NHS contract. Supporting guidance can be found here: [NPP Guidance](#)

New National Clinical Guidance on Urgent Dental Care and reporting responsibilities

On 1 May 2025 NHS England (NHSE) published new [national clinical guidance for unscheduled urgent and non-urgent dental care](#). This guidance aligns closely with our ongoing efforts in the Sussex Urgent Dental Care (UDC) access programme to ensure equitable patient access to timely, safe, and effective care tailored to individual needs. This work supports our progress towards achieving our share of the government's commitment to 700,000 additional urgent dental care appointments in 2025/26.

Accurate FP17 submissions are essential to demonstrate the impact of our innovative, patient-centred approach.

All providers should note the following key points:

- **FP17 claiming guidance** – any urgent or unscheduled treatment should be submitted as a Band 1 urgent claim
- **Re-attendance clarity** - re-attendance within a short period will not be flagged in the NHSE Dental Assurance Framework

Providers of UDC and Stabilisation (UDCS) are to also note:

- **Treatment structure** - Urgent care should be claimed as a discrete course of treatment, followed by stabilisation as a second course
- **Patient-initiated stabilisation care** – Providers may move towards a system of patient-initiated follow up. Where a patient is offered ongoing care to stabilise health we suggest they are advised to take some time to consider this and call the practice to rebook at a later date. This supports efficient use of sessional time and may help reduce FTA rates
- **Delivery target** - Providers must aim to deliver around 7 appointments per 3.5 hour session. We expect at least 5 of these to be for urgent care. Providers must demonstrate a proactive approach to filling their sessions
- **Sessions may be decommissioned where delivery is consistently below target and/or treatment claims are incorrectly submitted**

Applications open for new foundation training practices

Following a successful Dental Foundation Training (DFT) recruitment programme NHSE Workforce Training & Education (WT&E) Kent, Surrey and Sussex (KSS) are seeking new foundation training practice sites and educational supervisors (ESs). [Guidance on the ES role and selection process is available here.](#)

If you/your practice has capacity to take on a Foundation Dentist from September 2025 please submit your application to NHSE asap using this form: [NHSE \(WT&E\) KSS DFT New Educational Supervisor & Site - September 2025](#)

Translation and interpreting services

Practice responsibilities

All providers must ensure all staff are aware of practice responsibilities within the [General Dental Council \(GDC\) Standards for the Dental Team](#) and associated guidance in relation to supporting non-English speaking patients to access care safely. This includes Principles 2 and 3, to *communicate effectively with patients* and *obtain valid consent*.

- Where a patient needs an interpreter the provider is responsible for ensuring an appropriate interpreter is offered and booked (a suitably trained and regulated professional)
- It is unsafe practice to recommend that a patient uses a friend or family member to interpret or translate for them, although that person may be a supportive person to accompany them
- Provision of professional services supports effective care delivery and patient engagement. It also protects patients from coercion and can help you to identify/protect patients with any safeguarding concerns or risks
- Interpreters should be booked to support a patient with any pre- and post-appointment interactions with reception staff and any form completion
- Please be mindful to avoid sending untranslated emails or online forms

How to access free services

All dental services providing NHS-funded care In Sussex have access to high quality interpreting and translation services.

- [Full details of how to access fully funded interpreting and translation services](#) are provided on our intranet
- There are a range of providers available and services can be arranged at short notice to support urgent/emergency needs on a same day basis

Services available include:

- Face to face, telephone and remote community language interpreting
- Face to face, telephone and remote British Sign Language (BSL) interpreting (including SignLive on demand BSL interpreting)
- Translation services including BSL videos, Braille and Easy Read
- Bilingual Advocacy

Email sxicb.involvement@nhs.net if you encounter any issues accessing this support.

We are developing practice guidance around best practice for supporting migrant oral health which will include further details on interpreting and translation services

Improving accessibility for deaf patients

We are working with [SignLive](#) to make BSL interpreting more accessible across all practices.

Coming soon:

- **QR Codes** - All practices will receive the same QR code to provide quick and easy access to BSL interpreting services
- **Practice materials** - SignLive is exploring the provision of posters, stickers, and an information sheet for display in practices. These materials will likely be provided at no cost — we'll confirm once we hear more
- **Training Support** – Links to short training videos to help your teams understand how to use the service effectively.

Patient guidance resources

We know that providers seek to deliver evidence-based care and support new ways of working that enhance patient access and outcomes. To support this please register to access the national [Campaigns Resource Centre](#) platform and search for 'dental' assets.

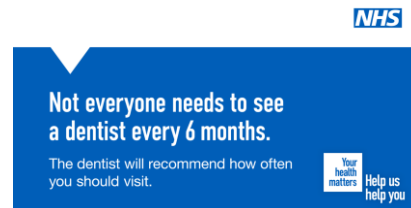


Resources are provided to support you to convey a range of key messages to patients.

Printable and digitally optimised posters are available to help you display information on noticeboards, screen displays, websites and social media.



This includes materials to help explain risk-based recall intervals, raise awareness of the role of skill-mix and provide oral health advice.



Children in care access pathway

Please be aware that our UDC access programme supports a pathway for children in care (also known as looked after children) and care leavers. It also includes pregnant women with an unborn child identified as a Child in Need and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children. A [referral and assessment form for children in care](#) has been introduced to enable social workers and other professionals to refer these patients to dental practices via the Sussex Dental Helpline.

Please take a moment to review the form and familiarise yourself with the process – the clinician seeing the patient is required to complete a section of the form and return it to the referrer.

This helps ensure patients have an oral health plan incorporated into their overall health record and supports appropriate ongoing care, even if they move out of area.

Further resources around supporting the needs of this patient group safely and effectively are being developed.

SEND training and guidance

Please take some time to check out the [Sussex Health and Care Partnership \(SHCP\) hub for Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) training](#), resources, and professional guidance.

This page is designed to support all healthcare professionals across Sussex who work with children and young people up to the age of 25 with SEND, as well as their families and carers.

Physical health checks for people with severe mental illness

People with a severe mental illness (SMI) are at greater risk of physical ill health, including a higher prevalence of oral health problems.

An annual physical health check can help to identify potential issues or conditions that might require further investigation or treatment, such as diabetes, heart disease, breathing conditions and some cancers.

[Resources to help to increase the uptake of physical health checks for people with SMI are available.](#)

We have produced a factsheet for professionals who come into contact with someone with a SMI, to aid a conversation with them about the benefits of the health check, where this is appropriate.

In addition, there is a printed postcard for them to hand to the individual so they can take some information away and hopefully book the appointment with their registered GP.

Reminders

You can access the latest updates and resources on the NHS Sussex intranet

Our platform can keep you informed with the latest news, updates, and resources. To sign up go to <https://int.sussex.ics.nhs.uk/primary-care/dental-practice/> Create an account to access:

- The latest NHS Sussex newsletters and updates
- A mailing list to ensure you never miss important announcements
- A profile to connect with Sussex healthcare colleagues
- Clinical guidance and best practice resources
- Training and learning opportunities



Help patients know how to access care

Many patients struggle to find a regular NHS dentist or access urgent care in their local area.

Our local Helpline team can provide advice to patients on how to access the care they need. They can book patients directly into urgent dental care appointment slots.

If you need urgent dental help and cannot find a dentist, the Dental Helpline can book you an urgent appointment with an NHS dentist.

For up to-date information and support on getting urgent dental care, contact:



Alternatively, email: kcht.dentalhelpline@nhs.net for more information.



Please promote the Helpline on your noticeboards/screen displays, websites and social media using the resources on our intranet.

Email us: sxicb.comms@nhs.net Web: int.sussex.ics.nhs.uk