Dental Statistics – NHS Treatment and Fees

Statistics as at March 2019

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release

This release by Information Services Division provides information on NHS General Dental Service (GDS) treatment and fees annually. This publication provides statistics for 2018/19 with comparisons with previous years.

Main Points

Dental Treatments

For children aged under 18

- Since 2000/01, the number of fillings given to children has fallen by more than 60% from 775,000 to just over 298,000 in 2018/19.

- Similarly, the number of teeth extracted has fallen by 35%, from over 133,000 in 2000/01 to less than 86,000 in 2018/19.

- In 2018/19, the number of courses of treatment claimed was just under 503,000, an increase of 1% from 498,000 in 2017/18.

- A third (33.2%) of dental treatments claimed were given under the Childsmile programme in 2018/19. These include fluoride varnish application, toothbrushing instruction and dietary advice. Childsmile is a national programme designed to improve the oral health of children in Scotland, and reduce inequalities, both in dental health and access to dental services.
For adults aged 18 and over

- In 2018/19, the number of courses of treatment claimed was just under 4.3 million, an increase of just over 90,000 (2%) from 2017/18 and the highest figure reported. This may be due to increasing numbers of patients participating in the GDS.
- Around a third (31.8%) of the treatments claimed for adults were for examinations.

Dental Fees

- In 2018/19, £303 million in GDS fees was authorised in Scotland, an increase of £10.3 million (3.5%) from 2017/18.
- When adjusted for inflation, GDS fees increase each year from 2004/05 until 2011/12; they then stabilise up until 2017/18; before increasing again in 2018/19.

Background

Treatment

NHS dentists can provide a wide range of treatments to their patients, from a simple examination to complex surgical treatment. The Statement of Dental Remuneration (SDR) lists all the items of service (IOS) (i.e. treatments) which dentists can provide and claim payment for.

Fees

Dentists are paid fees for each patient they have registered with them (capitation and continuing care payments) and for the treatments they provide.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the full publication report or from our web page. The next release of this publication will be September 2020.

NHS Performs

A selection of information from this publication is included in NHS Performs. NHS Performs is a website that brings together a range of information on how hospitals and NHS Boards within NHSScotland are performing.

ISD and Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of ‘Official Statistics’. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Further information about our statistics.