Primary Care Dentistry in Scotland

Annual Report 2018/19

A National Statistics publication for Scotland
Publication date: 26 November 2019

About this release

This release by Information Services Division (ISD), provides an annual update on how primary care dental services are managed and provided in Scotland, and how well these services are operating.

Main Points

- In 2018/19, the total cost of the delivery of General Dental Services (GDS) and the Public Dental Service (PDS) is £420.9 million, an increase of £11.8 million (2.9%) compared to 2017/18. This represents a £13.6 million (3.8%) increase in payments made to GDS contractors with a decrease in PDS funding of £1.8 million (3.6%).

Summary of payments and costs; financial years 2017/18 and 2018/19

- During 2018/19, £373.3 million was paid to dentists, compared to £359.7 million in the previous year.
- 2018/19 evidenced the continuing trend for further increased costs for both capitation (children) and continuing care (adult) registration fees of 4.2% and 4.9% respectively, due to both fee increases and increased numbers of patients registered.
There was no increase in the maximum patient charge in force during the year: it remained at £384 per course of treatment for patients who contributed towards the cost of their treatment. There were no in year changes to superannuation contribution rates, so the increase of £908k (5%) represents additional contributions directly related to increases in total superannuable earnings.

Background

The SDPB works in partnership with: Scottish Government, NHS National Services Scotland, NHS Boards, NHS Education for Scotland and other organisations, to develop the provision of General Dental Services in Scotland. This work includes authorising the payment of fees to dentists, carrying out research and analysis into the provision of dental services and making recommendations to Scottish Government in respect of dental services. The SDPB provide Scottish Ministers with this annual report to summarise this activity.

The NHS General Dental Service provides a range of treatments to patients and is mostly provisioned by independent ‘high-street’ dentists. The Public Dental Service is a merger of the salaried and community dental services and was formed on 1 January 2014. The main role of PDS is to provide GDS for those patients with special care needs.

Capitation is a basic monthly fee for the care and treatment of patients under the age of 18. This fee covers examinations, x-rays, scale & polish, preventative care and other minor SDR treatments. Continuing Care is a monthly fee payable for the provision of continuing care to patients aged 18 years or over.

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Further Information

Find out more in the full report which is available to download from our web page.

Information Services Division publishes a wide range of dental statistics. You can find all our dental information at the ISD dental website.

Current and historical information on GDS fees and costs is available on the General Dental Service section of our website.

This is the final report before the Scottish Government intends to significantly amend the role and responsibility of the Scottish Dental Practice Board. There is therefore currently no planned release date for a future report in this format.

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.