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Office of the Chief Dental Officer
Medical Directorate
NHS England
Skipton House
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09th March 2018

Dear Pamela,

RE: Notes for Avoidance of Doubt.

We are writing to inform you that the Chief Dental Officer for England, in conjunction with NHS England, is publishing a further two advisory notes for the dental profession.

The first of these, a "Note for the Avoidance of Doubt" (N4AD), has been released on the NHS website and covers the Provision of Phased Treatment for patients with high dental, medical or social needs. The N4AD is not a clinical guide but aims to clarify and assist practitioners claiming for the care of patients with high needs under the 2006 contract arrangements.

A second advisory note regarding the European Union Regulation 2017/852 on mercury specifically Article 10 relating to the use and disposal of dental amalgam is also tabled for release. The note recognises that three of the new provisions are already accommodated by the majority of practices in England, i.e.

- Amalgam waste – to be handled by authorised waste management establishments.
- Amalgam separators capturing 95% of particles
- Use of pre-dosed amalgam

However, the fourth provision and its impact on restricting the use of amalgam in certain patient groups is a new requirement. The note clarifies that the pan-UK implications have been considered and that development of further guidance in conjunction with the Chief Dental Officers for Wales Scotland and Northern Ireland, SDCEP and the professional bodies is underway. This additional advice will be published in due course and disseminated via the BSA, LDNs, NHSE Local Dental Leads and the NHS England website.

Should you require any further information on our publishing intent please contact my team via: england.ocdo-innovation@nhs.net

Yours sincerely,



Sara Hurley
Chief Dental Officer, England