

Important Changes to the FP17 from 1 April 2016

Important changes to the FP17 form are being introduced from 1 April 2016.

The changes are:

- addition of new clinical items
- addition of a new exemption category
- a change to evidence of exemption seen

New clinical items

The clinical data set section (Part 5a) of the FP17 form will be amended to include an additional three clinical items:

- the number of teeth which are decayed
- the number of teeth missing, and
- the number of teeth filled

This new data collection aims to capture information about oral health at the time of each patient assessment.

Completion of the additional clinical data items will be mandatory.

Detailed descriptions of the meanings of these terms and the ages and situations when they should be recorded are set out in the full guidance on the NHSBSA website at – <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/1145.aspx>

These are data items M, N, P, R, S, and T and are on the right hand side of the form. The form allows for the capture of data for both permanent and deciduous teeth based on age protocols (see full guidance).

What do you need to do?

If you use chair side software with charting, the software will automatically generate the summary information providing a complete charting is recorded and will prompt you to check this is correct. All that needs to be done is to confirm either that the values are correct, or to make amendments where necessary.

If you submit paper FP17s completed by hand or are using software where amendments are necessary, you will need to calculate the summary score for each box. In order to do this you will need to follow the rules set out in the table in the full guidance note.

Why have these clinical items been added?

Approximately 30 million patients are seen by NHS dentists over a two year period.

At present, the NHS does not routinely collect any information on the oral health outcomes of patients who receive those services. Collecting this data will allow the NHS to understand whether oral health is improving for those patients that receive NHS dental services.

The data will be used as the source for a new quality indicator as part of the NHS Outcomes Framework from April 2017.

Additionally, this information may be used to support dental population needs assessment and the commissioning and review of services.

Universal credit along with a change to evidence of exemption seen

Universal credit is to be added as an exemption category, along with a change to evidence of exemption or remission from 'Evidence of exemption or remission not seen' to 'Evidence of exemption or remission seen' with a yes/no indicator.

More details will be available in due course.

Next steps

Please ensure you familiarise yourself with the detailed guidance at <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/1145.aspx> , this provides you with all the information you require to complete the additional boxes on the FP17 form. Share this with all dental performers providing services under your NHS contract, and other clinical and non-clinical staff as appropriate.