DMF and the completion of the FP17 (England only)

With effect from 1 April 2017, the measures for decayed, missing and filled teeth will be reported. These measures were introduced to the FP17 submission in April 2016 to provide a data source for an indicator in the NHS Outcomes Framework. This had been a placeholder in the framework for a number of years. The NHS Outcomes Framework as a whole is currently under review and no longer being updated. Therefore there is no longer a requirement to publish the measures as part of the NHS Outcomes Framework. We have decided to publish the measures as part of Vital Signs or other practice level reports and we will start to report against these measures in 2017/18 as soon as we are confident that the data meets our quality standards.

This is a good time to remind you all about the importance of completing the DMF fields and also to reiterate guidance, especially for those few practices that have not been submitting the data up until this point.

Why is completing the DMF fields important?

The collection of decayed, missing and filled deciduous and permanent teeth indicates the oral health of patients at the time of each assessment, at the beginning of treatment, and will form new indicators in the NHS Outcomes Framework, supporting dental population needs assessment, commissioning and review of services.

When does the DMF data not need to be captured?

The only FP17s that don’t need to include the completed DMF fields are when:

- a full assessment is not carried out. For example if the patient is attending for urgent treatment, where a full assessment is not necessary, or where a full assessment is unachievable because of co-operation issues with the patient;
- an orthodontic course of treatment is submitted.

How do I calculate each of the values?

If you use a dental practice management system, there may be an element of automation to the completion of the DMF fields. Please check and correct these values if necessary.

If you complete paper FP17s you will need to calculate the values using the following rules:
General rules:

- The DMF values reflect the state of the patient's mouth at the point where the patient receives an assessment.
- Only count a tooth once. If a restored tooth also contains decay, count this tooth as a decayed tooth.
- If no teeth fit into a category enter a value of zero; do not leave it blank.
- If a category is not appropriate due to the age of a patient, leave the field blank.

Decayed permanent teeth (teeth with established caries):

- Only complete this value for patients aged six years and over at the date of acceptance.
- If a tooth has decay and is also restored, count the tooth as decayed.

Missing permanent teeth (where a tooth has been extracted):

- Only complete this value for patients aged 12 years and over.
- Only count a tooth as missing if you are confident that the tooth was extracted.

Filled permanent teeth:

- Only complete this value for patients aged 12 years and over.
- Include temporary restorations.

Decayed deciduous teeth (teeth with established caries):

- Only complete this value for patients aged up to and including patients aged 11.
- If a tooth has decay and is also restored, count the tooth as decayed.

Missing deciduous teeth (where a tooth has been extracted):

- Only complete this value for patients aged 6 years and under.
- Only count a tooth as missing if you are confident that the tooth was extracted and not exfoliated.
- Deciduous teeth ULA, ULB, URA, URB, LLA, LLB, LRA, LRB should be excluded from the count.
Filled deciduous teeth:

- Only complete this value for patients aged 6 years and under.
- Include temporary restorations.

Further guidance on completion of FP17s is available on the NHSBSA website at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/fp17-processing-and-payments