

NHSBSA Dental Services In the Spotlight Article 11: Capture of Aerosol Generating Procedure information England only

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have recently introduced a new field, within the Clinical Data Set (CDS) of FP17s, to capture Aerosol Generating Procedure (AGP) information.

The AGP field is now available on the online FP17 claim form (General and Orthodontic) in CoMPASS and is currently being rolled out by Practice Management System suppliers.

This article is intended as a guide in the completion of this AGP field within the CDS of FP17s.

Definition of AGP

An AGP is described in the “COVID – 19: infection prevention and control dental appendix” document published by Public Health England on 20 October 2020 ⁽¹⁾ as:

“procedures that create a higher risk of respiratory infection transmission and are defined as any medical, dental or patient care procedure that can result in the release of airborne particles <5 µm in size from the respiratory tract of an individual. These can remain suspended in the air, may travel over a distance and may cause infection if they are inhaled when treating someone who is suffering from an infectious disease, transmitted wholly or partly by the airborne or droplet route”.

Airborne precautions are required when undertaking AGPs on the medium and high-risk pathway and only essential staff who are needed to undertake the procedure should be present. Dental procedures that use high velocity air and water streams are considered a high risk of creating aerosols and include:

- *ultrasonic scaler (including piezo)*
- *high speed air/electric rotor (that is >60,000 rpm)*
- *Piezo surgical handpiece*
- *air polishers*

NB. Research demonstrated that use of the 3-in-1 syringe with either air-only or water-only resulted in lower levels of contamination, with water-only causing the least contamination. There is currently no consensus to include the use of a 3-in-1 as an AGP.”

Completion of the AGP indicator in the CDS of FP17s

The AGP field within the CDS of the FP17 is to be completed to record the number of AGP **appointments** provided as part of the course of treatment. Completion of the AGP field was made mandatory from 1 September 2020 if you used the online FP17 form within CoMPASS or if you used a Practice Management System which has the AGP field included.

Please note that the AGP field should not be completed on an FP17 with a date of acceptance (for a course of treatment) prior to 23 March 2020 and will be rejected with a comment 'inappropriate treatment code used'. As a result it will be necessary to remove the AGP data and resubmit the FP17 in order to process the claim.

Examples (please note that the examples are not exhaustive and there is no intention that all dental procedures will be covered):

1. Use of a high speed handpiece during the provision of two permanent fillings in one appointment:
 - Record "1" in the AGP field within the CDS section of the FP17

2. A patient is provided with 3 permanent fillings and a permanent crown over 3 appointments. A high speed handpiece is used in two of the three appointments and there was no AGP undertaken during the other appointment:
 - Record "2" in the AGP field within the CDS section of the FP17

3. A denture is provided to a patient with a normal gag reflex – takes five appointments (stages) until the denture is fitted. No AGPs were undertaken in any of the five appointments
 - The AGP field within the CDS section of the FP17 is not to be populated

References

- (1) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/928034/COVID-19_Infection_prevention_and_control_guidance_Dental_appendix.pdf