

Commissioner Bulletin – England – July 2021

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Temporary approval to suspend the need for signatures on dental forms (extension)

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has approved an extension to an existing temporary measure in England to help limit the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) by suspending the need for patients to sign prescription, dental and ophthalmic forms.

The [suspension has been in place since 1 November 2020](#) and is now extended for a further two months until 31 August 2021.

[More information is available on GOV.UK.](#)

Deadline extension: Annual Reconciliation Report process

Please encourage your contracts to complete the Annual Reconciliation Report (ARR) process in [Compass](#).

The deadline for performers and providers to confirm their Net Pensionable Earnings (NPE) for 2020/21 has now been extended and is **6pm on Wednesday 18 August 2021**.

Any changes to contributions will show in August's pay statements.

Year-end reconciliation letters

On behalf of NHS England and NHS Improvement's regional teams, our Provider Assurance Dental team will soon be delivering the year-end reconciliation for the 2020/21 financial year.

This year's reconciliation encompasses the full 2020/21 contractual year, in line with the time periods set out within the [NHS England and NHS Improvement Preparedness letters for primary dental care](#) and the supporting guidance.

We're aiming to publish your providers' year-end reconciliation letters in Compass on Wednesday 28 July 2021. We'll let your providers know by email when their year-end letter is ready to view.

We've recently updated our website to include information and supporting documents/letter templates relating to our operational delivery of the year-end 2020/21 reconciliation. [Visit our mid-year and year-end reconciliation page](#) for more information.

Contact us at:

- nhsbsa.dentalcases@nhs.net if you have any questions about the year-end reconciliation letter
- nhsbsa.dentalcontractreform@nhs.net if you have any questions about prototype contracts

Friends and Family Test submissions

As you might know, data submission for the Friends and Family Test (FFT) restarted this month.

We've reminded providers in this month's Dentist Bulletin that NHS England and NHS Improvement expect them to submit their first month's data (from July) in August. The data collection survey for this will open on Monday 2 August 2021.

We'll be updating our [Friends and Family Test page](#) with guidance and the survey link soon.

Collection methods

NHS England and NHS Improvement's advice since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic has been to avoid using collection methods that might be an infection risk. See [NHS England and NHS Improvement's FFT page for more information](#).

Suspension of some Compass functions

The following functions in Compass will be unavailable between 6pm on Wednesday 18 August and 12pm on Friday 27 August 2021:

- Contract Setup
- Contract Amend
- Closed Contract Amend
- Adjustment Create, Amend and Approvals
- Performer Update
- Allocate FDs to Contracts

Any adjustments or contract amendments that are not authorised by 6pm on Wednesday 18 August will be deleted.

Removing these functions temporarily is essential to process the ARR.

Quarters 1 and 2 calendar month report in Compass

Our new report for quarters 1 and 2 is now available in Compass. The report is refreshed each night and is now based on calendar months.

Performers, providers and commissioners all have access to the report. You can access the report by [logging in to Compass](#) and:

- selecting the 'Activity' folder
- selecting ' Activity Report for Quarters 1 and 2 (calendar month)'

UDA claims

For UDA claims, the month in which the activity is counted is based on the treatment completion date. However, if the patient failed to attend, the date of last visit will be used instead.

UOA claims

For UOA claims, the month in which the activity is counted is based on the date of:

- assessment for Assess and Review and Refuse
- appliance fitted for case starts
- completion for appliance repairs

Providers and performers can contact us at nhsbsa.dentalservices@nhsbsa.nhs.uk if they have any questions about their report.

Have your say on eDEN

Over the next few months the look and feel of eDEN will change as we look to make improvements and we would like your views.

We'd welcome your input to help us make the systems that you use the best that they can be.

There are lots of ways you can do this, from filling in online surveys to taking part in 20-minute interviews, to slightly longer group or usability sessions (where you get a chance to see and use what is being changed, before it goes live). We are launching the first of our usability sessions this month.

To take part in the sessions or find out more just email the User Research Team at nhsbsa.ur-insight@nhs.net.

This month's Dentist Bulletin

[Read this month's Dentist Bulletin](#) for the latest information about:

- Temporary approval to suspend the need for signatures on dental forms (extension)
- Deadline extension: Annual Reconciliation Report process
- COVID-19 workforce data collection requirements
- Year-end reconciliation letters
- Friends and Family Test submissions
- KO41b dental complaints data submission
- Suspension of some Compass functions
- Quarters 1 and 2 calendar month report in Compass
- Have your say on eDEN