

Dear Colleague,

Following the publication of the latest letter of preparedness on [5 April 2022](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/B1500-dental-letter-outlining-year-end-arrangements-and-performance-requirements-in-dentistry_050422.pdf) outlining end of year reconciliation arrangements for 2021/22 and requirements for Q1 of 2022/23, on behalf of NHS England and Improvement, we are sharing additional information which we hope will address some questions we’ve heard from practices.

We appreciate many colleagues will be looking to plan now for the remainder of the year, and hope that this will provide more certainty to support that work. Thank you for your ongoing efforts.

*Will practices be able to make up for any delivery under 95% in quarter one in the later periods of 2022/23*

Whilst we have made the offer of income protection for those who require it in Q1, we do not want any contractors to be inadvertently disadvantaged through this approach. In particular we want to reassure colleagues that they will be able to rely on performance calculated on a whole year basis where that additional flexibility would be to a contractor’s benefit. This means:

* Where treating Q1 separately isn’t to a contractor’s advantage, the calculation of performance will be on a whole year basis, and no separate arrangements will apply to Q1;
* If treating Q1 separately is to a contractor’s advantage, they will receive income protection at 95%, and accordingly won’t be able to carry forward activity from Q1 to count against their UDA requirement for the remainder of the year. In this case, a variable cost adjustment at 12.75% will be applied to Q1.

Contractors who receive income protection will be required to complete the Workforce Data Collection form on Compass and the Year-End Declaration when this becomes available. We will remind contractors of these requirements through the year.

*Do the Covid specific exceptional circumstances provisions continue into Q1 of 2022/23?*

The staff exceptional circumstances provisions ended on 31 March 2022 and we are unable to continue these into 2022/23. Contractors are encouraged to submit any outstanding supporting information and/or claims and as soon as possible, to ensure that these can be included in year-end reconciliation calculations.

*Can orthodontic delivery be carried forward (normally allowable up to 102%)?*

Yes. If an orthodontic contract has delivered in excess of 100% of actual contracted activity normal tolerances will apply and activity up to a maximum of 2% may be carried forward. This applies for contract years 2021/2022 and 2022/2023.

*Are you able to confirm whether urgent care centres continue to operate?*

The continuation of urgent dental care centres will be a decision that is made by regional commissioning teams.

*Dental foundation trainees*

Income protection arrangements have been agreed through Q1 2022/23 for those who require it as set out above, as further support during this period where practices are adapting to living with covid. During this period, we will continue to recognise activity undertaken by dental foundation trainees as counting towards delivery of the training practice’s mandatory services contract. This will apply to activity from 1 April to 30 June 2022, and activity must as always be submitted within the 60 day rule.

We will provide a further update on this position for the remainder of the year.

*In the year end reconciliation guidance, the wording in relation to covid absence exceptional circumstances talks about the relevant period being from the start of any staff absence. Does this mean ‘from when the absence impacts NHS delivery’?*

NHS England will award any relevant lost activity due to a staff member testing positive and impacting on contractual delivery. The relevant period would commence as soon as the staff absence had an impact on contractual delivery, based on the sessions that were unable to be completed during the period 1 December 2021 to 31 March 2022.

Yours faithfully,



**Ali Sparke**
Director for Dentistry, Community Pharmacy, Optometry, and the NHS Standard Contract