

Dental Foundation Training Arrangements in Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic
Postgraduate Dental Deans' Update
26 March 2020

This guidance updates the earlier guidance issued by the Postgraduate Dental Dean. Events continue to move at pace and Covid-19 has had a significant effect on NHS primary care dentistry. New national guidance has been published by NHS England and NHS Improvement on 25 March 2020:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/issue-3-preparedness-letter-for-primary-dental-care-25-march-2020.pdf>. This update is based upon that guidance.

It is now clear that all routine, non-urgent dental care should be stopped and that all practices should establish (independently or by collaboration with others) a remote urgent care service, providing telephone triage for their patients with urgent needs during usual working hours, and whenever possible treating with advice, analgesia antimicrobial means where appropriate. This is obviously going to significantly affect the work carried out by Foundation Dentists and their ability to be trained and gain experience in the normal way.

This guidance outlines the steps to be taken to ensure that Foundation Dentists are being used effectively, both in clinical practice, and to support the wider NHS.

Educational Supervisors and practice owners are required to provide regular updates to their TPD on the following:

- Confirm the services expected of their FDs if they are attending the practice to provide key healthcare work in with the national guidance and the level of supervision available to them. This should be part of a recorded risk assessment carried out by the employer.
- The contact the ES will be maintaining with the FD(s). It is important that the FD remains linked to the practice team.
- Notify their TPD in advance of any proposed changes to the FD's arrangements
- Whether practices are working in accordance with the national guidance or what other arrangements are in place.
- What activity is currently being undertaken by the FD, whether within the practice or elsewhere (role and number of days). It is not expected that FDs will substitute roles for staff recently made redundant or laid-off by their employer or for those supported by the government Covid-19 employment retention scheme.

- Confirm the location of their FD(s) during working hours when not required in the practice. FDs are not expected to remain at the practice if there is no work for them to do. In this case FDs should follow the national guidance on safe working, including remaining at home.

Foundation Dentists are required to provide their TPD with regular updates on the following:

- What activity (clinical or other) they are undertaking and where that is taking place (including the maintenance of a detailed record of the activity by the FD).
- Their latest contact details (address, email, telephone, etc.) if there is any change.
- Work with their TPD on identifying learning opportunities linked to Dental Foundation Training. The Associate Deans for DFT are working together, and with the TPDs, to maximise the range of resources available locally and nationally
- Discuss with their TPD any proposal to change their activity and obtain authorisation before any substantive changes (e.g. change in role, relocation) take place.
- Notify their TPD if they are living away from their Local Office area so that the Postgraduate Dental Dean in the area where they are living can be informed
- Make contact with the Postgraduate Dental Dean in the area where they are living so that their skill can be utilised to support the NHS in that area.

We anticipate that all FDs will be expected to provide support to the wider NHS within their contracted hours as this becomes necessary. The NEE **[INSERT LOCAL OFFICE]** is already in discussions with other NHS organisations (e.g. NHS England, Hospital Trusts, NHS 111) to make use of the resource available from our Foundation Dentists. These models make take a number of days to set up. Please maintain regular contact with your TPD so that you are updated on what you may be asked to do.

We realise that there is a lot of uncertainty at present and we are keen to support our both our Foundation Dentists and our training practices at this difficult time and we are asking for your co-operation in enabling us to make best use of our FD workforce.

Mr James Spencer

Postgraduate Dental Dean
HEE Yorkshire and the Humber