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Dear patient,

As you will be aware, Nicola Sturgeon previously announced that, as part of Phase 3 in the remobilisation from Lockdown, dental practices in Scotland are able to see patients for the routine NHS treatments that did not require aerosol generating procedures, due to the inherent risk in spreading Covid-19.

Unfortunately almost all treatments in dentistry require the generation of aerosols. The dental drill, ultrasonic scaler, and even washing and drying a tooth produces aerosols.

This means that, in order to ensure the safety of everyone, the range of dental care that can be offered by your dentist in their practice will continue to be extremely limited.

Obviously there are some conditions that are extremely pressing, but require the use of the dental drill / aerosols. Up until now, the Scottish Government guidance has required that these conditions are referred to the Urgent Dental Care Centres. Now, as we move through the stages of remobilisation, the First Minister has announced that dentists will be able to consider the use of aerosols in their practice, for this urgent care, from the 17th of August.

The cross infection requirements needed to protect against the spread of Covid-19, however, will require specific and ongoing changes in the practice environment. Obviously your care and safety is uppermost in your dentist's mind, and so your dentist is in constant contact with the Board during this time, in order to ensure that you are cared for in as safe and protected an environment as possible. Any urgent treatment that require aerosols will, therefore, be specifically assessed to determine whether your dentist should carry it out in the practice or if it should be in the Urgent Dental Care Centre.

Unfortunately this still means that the normal dental care, that we all hope to return to, is still not possible. Can I ask that you please bear with us through this trying time, and understand that your dentist, like all the other professionals of the NHS family, has your safety uppermost in their mind.

Kindest Regards,



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