

Welcome to NES Dental Clinical Effectiveness

Welcome to the October 2021 edition of the Dental Clinical Effectiveness Newsletter. In this edition you will find details on TiPTAP trial, Drug prescribing update, NES Star Awards, SCRiPT study, VDP research project, and much, much more.



Prof Jan Clarkson

SDCEP - The Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme [www.sdcep.org.uk]

TRiADS - Translation Research in a Dental Setting [www.triads.org.uk]

SDPBRN - The Scottish Dental Practice Based Research Network [www.sdpbrn.org.uk]

QliPT - [[Quality Improvement in Practice Training](#)]

Training in Practice Targeting Antibiotic Prescribing (TiPTAP): An exciting nationwide trial recruiting now.

NES Dental Clinical Effectiveness are running an exciting nationwide trial evaluating an important new training component on dental antibiotic prescribing. The TiPTAP trial is a collaboration between the QliPT team and TRiADS within NES and the Health Services Research Unit at the University of Aberdeen. It aims to evaluate the effectiveness of a new training component focusing on antibiotic prescribing within dentistry in Scotland.

Antibiotic prescribing plays a big role in the growing global threat of Antimicrobial resistance. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic antibiotic prescribing within dentistry had been steadily reducing in Scotland. However due to COVID-19 and the AAA guidance for dental practices, antibiotic prescribing significantly increased in the first few months of the pandemic. Although it has declined slightly since then, it is still well above the pre-pandemic levels.

From September 2021, NHS dental practices who sign up for infection control training with QliPT, and are eligible for the trial, will be invited to take part. The trial training component includes facilitated discussion and a short presentation on antibiotic prescribing. Taking part will not affect the standard content or add any additional time to the infection control training session.

If your practice has recently signed up for infection control training, please keep an eye on your practice emails for an invitation for TiPTAP and complete the consent form to let us know if your practice would like to take part.

NES Stars Awards

The Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme Team have been selected to receive a 2021 NES Staff Thanks and Recognition Scheme (STARS) Award in the category of 'Aim for excellence in education'. The award was given for the production of SDCEP guidance and the integrated implementation research which has been recognised internationally.

In order to achieve this the team have worked effectively in partnership with government, healthcare professionals, academics and the public. Congratulations to all involved.



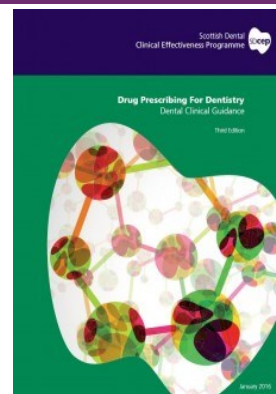
Update to SDCEP Prescribing Guidance

In June 2021, SDCEP released a new update to the third edition of its *Drug Prescribing For Dentistry* guidance (published in January 2016).

This update includes information on amendments to the March 2021 edition of the British National Formulary (BNF 81) and also incorporates information from the update previously issued in June 2017.

Changes to antibiotic prescribing are highlighted, including the move to recommend phenoxymethylpenicillin as the drug of first choice for dento-alveolar infections due to its narrower spectrum of activity. The circumstances in which it is appropriate to prescribe antimicrobials remain unchanged and local measures should be used to manage patients in the first instance. The *Dental Prescribing* app has also been updated to reflect these changes. The app is available to download free on Google Play™ or the App StoreSM.

In addition, a supplement to the *Drug Prescribing For Dentistry* guidance, with details of the contraindications and cautions which should be taken into account when prescribing analgesics or antibiotics in dental practice, is now available. Much of its content was originally developed as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Both the update and the supplement are available to download at www.sdcep.org.uk/published-guidance/drug-prescribing.



Research with Vocational Dental Practitioners

A new study is being developed by researchers within Dental Clinical Effectiveness alongside colleagues in NES Dental Vocational Training. The study will involve Vocational Dental Practitioners (VDPs) conducting risk assessments for type 2 diabetes with their patients. Its primary aim is to ascertain whether signposting or direct referral is more effective at facilitating contact between patients and a healthcare professional such as a General Medical Practitioner, a general practice nurse or a community pharmacist. Data collection is expected to begin in Spring 2022.

The study will provide an opportunity for VDPs to gain first-hand experience of undertaking a research project and to be involved in developing the study design, collecting and analysing data, interpreting the results and assisting with dissemination.

For more information please contact SDPBRN@nes.scot.nhs.uk

NICE Accreditation

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) accreditation of SDCEP's guidance development has recently been renewed for a further five years. NICE accreditation is independent recognition of the rigorous, high quality process that SDCEP uses to produce guidance.

Users of NICE accredited guidance can have high confidence in the quality of the information provided. SDCEP is the only dental organisation with this status. Partnership working with TRiADS was again crucial to achieving this, enabling all 25 accreditation criteria to be met.



The SCRiPT Study (Selective Caries Removal in Permanent Teeth)

The SCRiPT Study is open to recruitment of motivated general dental practitioners and hygiene therapists. This is an excellent opportunity to be involved in cutting edge pragmatic research, helping to develop the evidence to facilitate the progression of minimally interventive dentistry in General Dental Practice. The SCRiPT Study is an NIHR funded, pragmatic randomised control trial comparing the clinical and cost effectiveness of selective caries removal with complete caries removal. The study is run by a collaborative team from the Universities of Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, King's College London, Sheffield and NHS Education for Scotland, recruiting 623 participants from 65 general dental practices.

We are looking for motivated and enthusiastic dentists and hygiene therapists in General Dental Practices to recruit 9 participants and follow them up for three years. (Follow-up would be annually at their routine examination). Patient participant recruitment: Aged 12 and over who receive some or all of their treatment as NHS patients, who are suitable to receive either selective or complete caries removal in a pre-molar or molar. All training will be provided and you will be reimbursed for out of pocket expenses and vCDP will be provided.

If you would like to be involved or find out more information? Please contact us at: script@dundee.ac.uk, or call one of our research nurses – Fiona: 01382 383604 or Jill: 01382 383604.



PSM Updates - Whistleblowing & Health & Wellbeing at Work

Effective from 1 April 2021, the National Whistleblowing Standards set out how the Independent National Whistleblowing Officer (INWO) expects all NHS service providers to handle concerns that are raised with them, that meet the definition of “whistleblowing concern”.

The Practice Support Manual (PSM) “Reporting for Public Safety (whistleblowing)” subtopic has been updated. The subtopic resources include: information on raising concerns, a policy template and a reporting form.

The PSM also links to the National Whistleblowing Standards training available via TURAS. It is recommended that all staff who work for, or on behalf of NHS Scotland access the training.

A new subtopic has been added to the PSM. Health and Wellbeing at Work outlines the employer requirements for supporting staff and provides a list of information, advice and training resources to help support mental health and wellbeing for all dental team members.

Homeworking

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NES staff are continuing to work from home wherever possible. All Clinical Effectiveness staff are currently working from home and have adapted the way we work to reflect this.

Our staff continue to be contactable at scottishdental.cep@nes.scot.nhs.uk.



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