

H1N1 flu pandemic and its implications for dentists in Lanarkshire

In June 2009, the World Health Organisation has declared the H1N1 influenza outbreak a pandemic. While the virus generally appears to be causing mild symptoms for the moment, it is important that contingency plans are put in place for the possibility of an increase in severity of the outbreak.

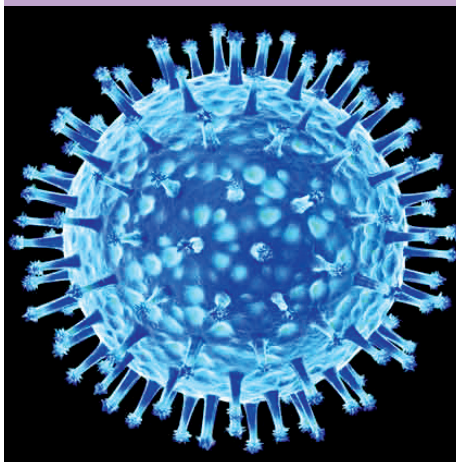
All dentists at some stage during the outbreak may have to withdraw from providing routine dental care including procedures that create aerosol spray. Until this stage is reached, dentists will continue to operate as normal and current out-of-hours emergency dental care arrangements should remain in place. There has been speculation that routine dental care would need to stop at an early stage due to the risk from aerosol spray. If robust cross-infection control procedures are in place, which we have in dental practices, this is not necessary.

The decision on when dentists should stop providing routine care in Lanarkshire will be taken by the Director of Public Health, Dr Kohli, on the advice of the Health Protection Team. The Primary Care Administration Department and the Dental Practice Adviser will then cascade this decision to all general dental practitioners (GDPs). Patients will still have to have access core emergency dental

treatment during 'in hours' and 'out of hours' periods.

There will be different levels of alert during the severe outbreak stage. For Level 1, it is recommended that dental practices develop local contingency plans 'buddying up' with other practices. The extent of these arrangements is up to individual practices to agree but could include arranging to see emergency cases or even sharing staff where there is a shortage due to illness. The important factor in making this work is good communication and goodwill between the practices. GDPs who are not part of Lanarkshire Emergency Dental Service must have arrangements for emergency care that are effective at this stage, ensuring that they will not fail if an individual dentist is ill.

For more information,
visit the following
websites:
<http://www.gdc-uk.org>
<http://www.bda.org>

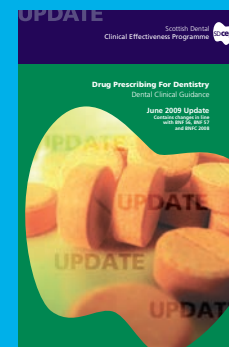


Electron micrograph of H1N1 virus.

New chair and vice chair for ADAC

The Area Dental Advisory Committee (ADAC) has recently elected Gordon Stewart, a GDP from Cumbernauld, as Chair of ADAC; and Anne Moore, Deputy Director of Salaried Primary Care Dental Services, as Vice Chair. It is hoped that their knowledge and expertise will bring new insights to the committee.

'Drug Prescribing for Dentistry' updated



The Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme (SDCEP) has published the 'Drug Prescribing for Dentistry: Dental

Clinical Guidance – June 2009 Update' to bring together necessary amendments from the latest volumes of 'British National Formulary' (BNF 56 and BNF 57) and the new 'BNF for Children' (BNFC 2008). For copies of the Update booklet, please contact the office of SDCEP or visit their website: <http://www.sdcep.org.uk>.

Referral Management Service

In April 2007, the Referral Management Service (RMS) was established at Hairmyres Hospital, East Kilbride, to standardise the receipt of outpatient referrals and the booking of new outpatient appointments across NHS Lanarkshire from a centralised location.

Currently the RMS receives and processes approximately 3,000 referrals per week and appoints approximately 80% of all new outpatient appointments across all the specialties in Lanarkshire including dental referrals. At present, approximately 80% of GP referrals received are electronic through the SCI Gateway system, while dental referrals are principally paper-based. A pilot scheme has been instigated in NHS Forth Valley and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to examine the feasibility of electronic referral for dental practices.

Therefore dental practices can continue to use the paper-based RMS at Hairmyres Hospital until the pilot is successfully completed and be rolled out to other areas. The system still allows GPs to indicate the hospital and consultant to whom they wish the referral directed.

Practices are advised that the 'soon/urgent/soon/routine' has been made redundant by the Waiting Time Initiative. Copies of referral forms are available from the NHS Lanarkshire Headquarters, 14 Beckford Street, Hamilton ML3 0TA. Completed referral forms should be sent to: RMS, Hairmyres Hospital, Eaglesham Road, East Kilbride G75 8RG.

New referral form for Glasgow Dental Hospital

New referral form should now be used when referring patients to Glasgow Dental Hospital. Both guidance notes and referral form are available from the website:

http://www.nhsggc.org.uk/CONTENT/default.asp?page=s857_1

Another prize for Harry at the Zoo DVD

The much acclaimed oral health improvement resource 'Harry at the Zoo' DVD won the runner-up prize for entry into the Bright Smiles Bright Futures Award organised by the International Association of Paediatric Dentistry (IAPD) at the 22nd Congress of the IAPD held in Munich in June 2009.

Comes and Goes

After working for NHS Lanarkshire for 27 years, Helen McLean, personal assistant to both Albert Yeung, Consultant in Dental Public Health, and Edward Mallinson, Consultant in Pharmaceutical Public Health, retired from her service at the end of June 2009. To mark the occasion of Helen's retirement, a presentation was held on 29 June 2009 at the NHS Lanarkshire headquarters.

The dental side of Helen's work is being replaced by Catherine Keachie, who works as Albert Yeung's new secretary.

Helen with colleagues and other well-wishers at her retirement presentation.



Homeless Dental Service

The Lanarkshire Dental Service for patients who are homeless was set up in 2004 and is an excellent example of collaborative working between GPs and Salaried Dentists. The service is currently manned by 5 dentists and 4 nurses, from both General Dental Service and Salaried Primary Care Dental Service (SPCDS) working on a rota basis. All of those participating do so in order to make a difference to this vulnerable sector of our community, which is evidenced by the fact that the majority have been involved since its inception despite a less than wonderful recompense.

Patients, who are homeless for a variety of reasons, can access the service by telephone via the Health and Homeless team at Blantyre Health Centre. The Homeless Dental Clinic has recently been relocated to Douglas Street and continues to operate on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm to 9.30pm.

The evening sessions are well attended but there is no doubt that a large sector of the neediest homeless population, are still not accessing dental care, and therefore the service is constantly being reviewed in an effort to address this gap.

Anyone wishing further information about the service or indeed who would like to volunteer to participate should contact:

Anne Moore
Deputy Director SPCDS
Coathill Hospital
Hospital Street
Coatbridge ML5 4DN
Tel: 01236 707711
Email: Anne.Moore@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Smile with Confidence resource won national prize

A project to improve secondary school pupils' oral health led to NHS Lanarkshire scooping a prestigious national award. The health board's oral health team, working with local schools, developed a new DVD and teaching materials called, *Smile with Confidence* - designed to promote the importance of good oral health. The success of the project resulted in the NHS Lanarkshire team being presented with the Patron's Prize at the National Oral Health Promotion Group's (NOHPG) annual conference, held in Manchester in June 2009. The *Smile with Confidence* DVD and teaching materials developed

through this project will be distributed to all schools in north and south Lanarkshire in October 2009.



Charlotte Jeavons (left), Chair of the NOHPG, presents the Patron's Prize certificate to NHS Lanarkshire's Celia Watt (middle), Senior Health Promotion Officer (Oral Health), and Albert Yeung (right), Consultant in Dental Public Health.

Success for Lanarkshire school children

Lanarkshire pupils won prizes for their schools for doing artwork for the 'Harry's Holiday' DVD, which is a sequel to the award-winning 'Harry at the Zoo' DVD. This second DVD oral health improvement resource was launched on 5 March 2009 at the North Lanarkshire Council headquarters at a ceremony where all the winning schools were invited. 'Harry's Holiday' is another animated film which emphasises the importance of oral hygiene and brushing your teeth correctly.

The prize-winning pupils with their certificates.



Susan Frew, Childsmile Co-ordinator, NHS Lanarkshire

Introduce yourself.

I live in Motherwell and have worked in NHS Lanarkshire for the last ten years. I graduated from Glasgow Caledonian University with a degree in Public Sector Management and Administration.

What do you hope Childsmile will achieve in the next couple of years?

We currently have 52 practices in the Lanarkshire area offering Childsmile. I hope over the coming years that Childsmile will be available in every dental practice in Lanarkshire and that all children will be involved in the programme from six

months old to ensure they have all the appropriate dental care. Any child born after the 1st of January 2005 is eligible to take part in the Childsmile programme.

What factors do you think are important to the implementation of Childsmile in Lanarkshire?

The hard work and support from everyone involved in the Childsmile programme has been crucial to the roll out and success of the programme. Childsmile Dental Health Support Workers (DHSWs) receive daily support from their Public Health Nursing teams. Indeed, Public Health Nurses are instrumental in promoting and referring children into the programme. DHSWs then tailor support to the needs of individual families. The GDPs then provide a comprehensive Childsmile

programme with up-to-date information, free resources and preventative care. In addition, Salaried Primary Care Dental Services provide Childsmile to those families who could not access their chosen GDP. Support from management at all levels within Lanarkshire and from the national programme has also been very important to the development of Childsmile within Lanarkshire.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love working with the wide range of people involved in the programme.

What has been your greatest achievement to date?

Having four beautiful, funny, clever kids.

Susan Frew with her children.



Recent appointments

Kieran Watters, Dental Practice Adviser, has been appointed to the post of Associate Course Director for the Certificate in Dental Health Services Leadership and Management, Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK), The Royal College of Surgeons of England, and the post of Assessor for the National Clinical Assessment Service assessor panel.

Albert Yeung, Consultant in Dental Public Health, has been appointed as the Dental Faculty Advisers Lead, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

Editor

Albert Yeung, Consultant in Dental Public Health

Editorial Board

Kirsten Lammie, Health Promotion Assistant (Oral Health)
Anne Moore, Deputy Director, Salaries Primary Care Dental Services
Jason Munro, North Lanarkshire Community Health Partnership GDP representative
Celia Watt, Senior Health Promotion Officer (Oral Health)

Contact Address: Lanarkshire NHS Board, 14 Beckford Street, Hamilton ML3 0TA

<http://www.nhslanarkshire.org.uk/Services/Oral/Pages/KeepLanarkshireSmiling.aspx>