

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **LIFELONG REGISTRATION BRINGS ADDED RISK TO DENTISTS, WARNS MDDUS.**

The recent change in the registration period for NHS dental patients in Scotland to four years – with a possible move to lifelong registration – could have serious implications for the standard of preventative care, warns the Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland (MDDUS).

The change came into effect recently after an agreement between the Scottish Government Health Directorates (SGHD) and the Scottish Dental Practice Committee arm of the British Dental Association.

The changes mean that all patients currently registered with the NHS can go up to 48 months without a preventative check-up before being automatically removed from a practice list.

Should continuous registration – which the SGHD supports – go ahead in 2010, there will no longer be automatic lapses in registration no matter how long it is since the patient has seen a dentist.

“It is interesting to note that there is provision for the fee the dentist receives for these patients to be reduced to 20% if the patient does not attend for 3 years,” says Claire Renton, new dental adviser with the UK-wide MDDUS.

“MDDUS would encourage its members to ensure patients attend dentists regularly to ensure oral health is maintained. Continuous registration will mean that patients have no responsibility to attend for regular preventative check-ups.

“However, the dentist needs to be aware of the increased potential burden they might face. All these NHS registered patients are entitled to NHS care which of course includes access to emergency dental treatment. The ethical responsibilities of dentists remain unchanged and dentists are advised to consider their ability to provide this care to all their registered patients.”

Ends

For further information contact Colin Calder on 0141 616 2677 or 07850 510881.

### **Note to editors**

MDDUS is a medical defence organisation providing access to professional indemnity and expert medicolegal advice for doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals throughout the UK. For further information on MDDUS go to [www.mddus.com](http://www.mddus.com).