

PRESS RELEASE



For immediate release: Thursday, 19 November 2009

DON'T LET THE BUGS IN, WARNS MDDUS.

Scots dentists must comply with new Scottish Government guidance on dental decontamination and ensure their validation is up to scratch, warns the Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland (MDDUS).

This month all primary dental care practices received updated guidance from the Chief Dental Officer for Scotland on the timescales for compliance with decontamination requirements, as well as actions to be taken by December 2009.

In England the situation is different in that all dental practices will have to meet essential requirements of the Department of Health's guidance on dental decontamination by April 2010 – twelve months after the publication of the HTM 01-05 guidelines. To assist practice owners model protocols and audit tools have been included with implementation of HTM 01-05.

It is anticipated that the guidelines will be adopted in Wales as well as Northern Ireland – but amendments will apply in the province.

MDDUS advises that HTM 01-05 does not apply in Scotland as dentists there are in receipt of guidance documents from various organisations that provide advice on such matters.

Aubrey Craig, head of the dental division of the UK-wide MDDUS, says: "It is welcome news that the other home countries are developing processes for decontamination in dental surgeries. Scotland has been the lead on this for a number of years.

"It was reassuring to see that Dr Margie Taylor, upon taking up her post as Chief Dental Officer for Scotland, wished to gather information prior to formulating the guidance."

Craig warns: "However, there is no way out for practitioners. They will have to comply with the guidance and ensure that their Health Board is fully aware of their plans."

Ends

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

Note to editors

MDDUS is a medical and dental defence organisation providing access to professional indemnity and expert medico- and dento-legal advice for doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals throughout the UK. For further information on MDDUS go to www.mddus.com.