

LDC Confederation

Contract Changes April 2026:
What we know so far

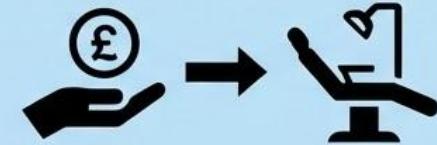
1. Increased payments for urgent/unscheduled care



Total of £75 per patient.



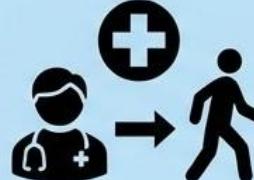
Includes £15 upfront payment to support flexible capacity and mitigate DNAs.



£15 to be paid irrespective of actual levels of urgent dental care delivered.



Remaining £60 to be credited after submission of FP17

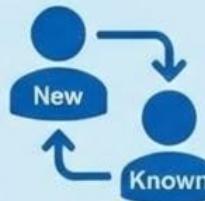


Applies to all urgent dental care cases, referred or walk-in

2. Requirement to do a minimum level of urgent/unscheduled care activity



Practices will be required to undertake a minimum level of urgent/unscheduled care.



This is for any patient, including those known to the practice already.



This requirement is intended to ensure sufficient capacity across all contracts.



Practices will be required to deliver 8.2% of their contract value as urgent/unscheduled activity.

3. New complex care pathways to support practices to prioritise higher needs groups

Who are the pathways for?



Pathway 1

Over 16s only. At least 5 teeth with caries into dentine with no unstable periodontal disease.

Fee: £284 Duration: 6 months



Pathway 2

At least 5 teeth with caries into dentine with currently unstable periodontal disease.

Fee: £709 Duration: 12 months



Pathway 3

A new diagnosis of grade C periodontal disease.

Fee: £248 Duration: 6 months

What does it mean?



Where a patient also needs laboratory work, a single Band 3 will be claimable in addition to the pathway.



Activity will be credited throughout the duration of the pathway, to ensure practices are aware of progress towards their contracts.



The new pathways do not replace existing banded courses of treatment.



Separate guidance on complex care pathways is being developed, but a dentist will need to use their judgement to determine whether to apply the new or old course to the patient.

4. Denture modification or relining alongside other Band 2 care will be eligible for an additional payment



An additional two UDAs will be available for denture modification or performing a reline, in addition to a complex care pathway.



Denture repairs will also generate 2 UDAs. Modifications are claimed in addition to a complex care pathway.

5 & 6. Fluoride Varnish and Fissure Sealants



New course of treatment at 0.5 UDAs. Allows suitable Dental Nurses to apply fluoride varnish without the patient needing a full dental examination.



Fissure sealants for prevention rebanded as Band 2.

7. Quality Improvement



Practices will be able to access funded quality improvement activities. Audit and peer review on a defined national topic or area of concern which will be determined annually.



Supported by local clinical leadership.



Not mandatory but will be funded at an annual average of £3,400 per participating practice.

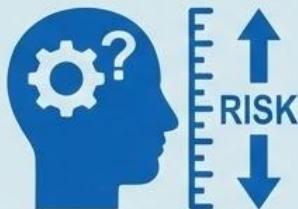


Funding will count towards the practice's contracted UDAs. Exact remuneration arrangements will be confirmed in due course.



The initial topic is likely be applying NICE guidance on recall intervals.

8. Recall intervals



Recall decisions will continue to be based on clinical judgement of oral health risk at individual patient patient level.



Practices are asked, regardless of whether they take part in the funded QI scheme, to apply the NICE guidance rigorously, to ensure that NHS capacity is used appropriately and access is maximised.

9. Funded annual appraisals



£213 per eligible clinician.



Claimed by the clinician receiving the appraisal.



Count towards the practice's contracted UDAs.



Can be claimed once a year on completion of appraisal.



Does not apply to members of staff employed by practices who already have performance reviews and appraisals.

10. Increased use of “tariff” payments



Contract still based on UDAs. But a move to fixed payments - e.g. Urgent Dental Care and Complex Care.



Fixed payments will be translated back into UDAs at a practice's UDA rate.

£35.50
UDA value

For example, where a practice has an average UDA value of £35.50, a £284 payment for care pathway 1 will be credited to a practice at 8 UDAs.



£284
payment



8
UDAs

11. Other changes



Introducing a handbook for NHS practices.



Increasing eligibility for discretionary support payments.



More support for associates through establishing minimum terms and conditions.



Further information will be provided in due course.

LDC Confederation

The LDC Confederation is holding an event on 10 March where we will be joined by special guests to explore these changes in more detail.

- 🌐 Details are available on our website
- 🖱️ You can join your LDC by following this link



LDC Confederation

You can keep up to date with information about these and other issues affecting NHS dentistry

