

Dental contract quality and payment reforms: unscheduled care activity requirements for NHS dental contract holders for 2026/27

Communication sender: Dentistry, Optometry and Pharmacy Commissioning Hub on behalf of the London integrated care boards

Email subject: Unscheduled care activity requirement for 2026/27

Dear Provider,

All contracts delivering mandatory services as a high street dental practice will be required to deliver a proportion of the contract as unscheduled care from 1 April 2026.

Contracts for the following services are excluded from this requirement:

- non-mandatory services contracts (e.g. orthodontic, level 2 complexity, sedation)
- those commissioned to provide 99 or less units of dental activity every financial year
- a pre-2006 child-only contract, where the agreement was entered into before 1 April 2006 and who only provide dental services to children
- those only providing Community Dental Services
- those only providing dental services in secure and detained estates
- those only providing dental public health services
- those only providing urgent dental care (including out of hours contracts)

The London DOP Hub aims to have all unscheduled care requirements applied to contract entries on Compass (where appropriate) before the processing date on 17th March 2026. You will not be notified by the DOP hub when the changes have been implemented so should check your contract entries on a regular basis.

Those with contracts for urgent dental care, including out of hours contracts, will be contacted

in due course to discuss the implications. We do not expect there to be any negative impacts to these services.

It has not been confirmed whether the 2026/27 DDRB uplift will be applied to the £75 payment for unscheduled care specifically, but it will be applied to your entire contract value as usual.

Your unscheduled care requirement

The requirement is calculated as the total contract value divided by £10,000, multiplied by 11. This gives the total number of courses of treatment (CoT) (rounded up to the nearest whole number), claimed as urgent band 1 FP17s, which will need to be delivered to meet the contractual requirement.

For your contract(s), this means a specific number of CoT are required to be delivered in the financial year 2026/27. This figure will be recalculated for subsequent years and may be subject to amendment, according to the regulations. Further information will be set out in the contractual guidance which will be published on the [dental contract reform webpage](#).

What this means for you

Urgent band 1 FP17 claims will not be credited at 1.2 UDAs anymore; instead, they will be credited at a new set rate.

For each required unscheduled CoT your contract will be credited £15, converted to UDAs at your nominal UDA value. This means that for your contract you will be credited a monthly fixed payment of the required total number of CoT multiplied by £15 divided across 12 months, set out as a separate service line in the NHS BSA Contract Management and Payment System titled 'Unscheduled mandatory requirement'.

For each unscheduled CoT delivered and claimed for up to the required total number of CoT, your contract will be credited an activity payment of £60, converted to UDAs at your nominal UDA value.

Once you have delivered your required number of unscheduled CoT, each urgent band 1 FP17 claimed beyond this will be credited £75, converted to UDAs at your nominal UDA value.

Please note that due to the timing of the system changes to facilitate these payments all urgent band 1 FP17s claimed in April will be credited £60, even if they are additional claims above the mandated requirement which should be paid £75. Where these claims are for activity above the mandated requirement, these will be retrospectively updated to £75 from July onwards. We would therefore encourage you to delay submission of claims for April so that they can avoid needing retrospective correction.

What is my required number of courses of treatment

Your required number of unscheduled CoT can be found under the contract service lines listed for 2026/27 on Compass, see appendix 1.

You can calculate the number of unscheduled CoT requirement yourself while you are waiting for it to be entered on Compass. Divide the 25/26 contract value by 10,000, then multiply by 11. Please note this is a CoT requirement, not the number of UDAs that will be discharged by delivering the activity.

Alternatively, you can use the excel calculator attached to this email which will also provide the number of UDAs discharged for the required number of unscheduled care CoT.

How do I calculate the number of UDAs for the required courses of treatment

Calculate your nominal UDA value by dividing the 26/27 contract value by the 26/27 Activity Target as shown on Compass.

Using the unscheduled CoT requirement as shown in Compass or calculated using the formula in the section above, multiply the CoT requirement by £75. This gives the total value of the unscheduled care requirement.

Divide the total value of the unscheduled care requirement by your nominal UDA value. This gives the number of UDAs that will be discharged by delivering the required unscheduled care CoT.

The application of the unscheduled CoT requirement does not alter the nominal UDA value for the remaining UDAs.

Alternatively, you can use the excel calculator attached to this email.

What if my contract is excluded from the requirement

Urgent band 1 FP17 claims will not be credited at 1.2 UDAs anymore; instead, they will be credited at a new set rate.

Each urgent band 1 FP17 claimed will be credited £75 converted to UDAs at your nominal UDA value. This activity will contribute to the usual contract reconciliation process.

Please note that due to the timing of the system changes to facilitate these payments urgent band 1 FP17s claimed in April will be credited £60. These claims will be retrospectively updated to £75 from July onwards. Any claims made in May onwards will be credited £75. We would therefore encourage you to delay submission of claims for April so that they can avoid needing retrospective correction.

What happens next

You are encouraged to register for a webinar provided by NHS England on the quality and payment reforms on 11 March at 6:00 to 7:30pm. [Register for a place](#). We understand that the issues with registration have now been resolved.

The requirements relating to this change, including service requirements, claiming, payment and reconciliation processes will be further detailed in the contractual guidance published on

the [dental contract reform webpage](#) by the end of March. A letter detailing next steps and timelines for implementation has also been published on this page.

Once the regulatory changes and amendments to the Statement of Financial Entitlement come into force from 1 April 2026, we will write to you again to provide your contract variation which will confirm this requirement alongside the further changes relating to fluoride varnish and fissure sealants. You will be asked to acknowledge receipt by signing and returning a duplicate copy of the contract variation. A contract variation covering the remaining reforms will follow in due course as the regulatory changes are made.

From 1 April 2026, each unscheduled care band 1 course of treatment delivered will contribute to your annual contractual requirement.

Kind regards

Jeremy Wallman

Head of Primary Care Commissioning; Dentistry, Optometry and Pharmacy
NHS London Dental Commissioning Hub – on behalf of all London Integrated Care Boards