

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The General Dental Services (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022

2022 SR No. 276

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Health to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under powers conferred by Articles 55A(1)(a), 61(1) and (2), 106(b) and 107(6) of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 and Section 6(2) of the Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The Statutory Rule amends the General Dental Services Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993 to move the Prior Approval Limit amount to the Statement of Dental Remuneration (SDR) and to provide extensions to Care and Capitation periods as a result of the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic and to clarify minor references throughout.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Prior Approval Limit amount is the figure that triggers referral to the BSO Dental committee for treatment approval, this can cause delays for some common procedures. Moving the amount to the SDR provides for efficiencies in treatment delivery and brings NI legislation into line with similar Scottish legislation.
- 3.2. As a result of the impact of the covid pandemic, patients' registrations were extended to ensure that they were not deregistered due to increased access difficulties. With access much improved, this amendment helps practices and patients better manage a return to normal arrangements by adding a number of months on to each individual patient registration.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. In accordance with Article 61(4) of that Order, the Department has consulted with such organisations as appear to be representative of the dental profession.

5. Equality Impact

- 5.1. An Equality Impact Screening was performed and found that these Regulations do not adversely affect any of the Section 75 groups.

6. Regulatory Impact

- 6.1. A Regulatory Impact Assessment was considered and it was decided one was not necessary because there was a no additional cost involved.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. There are no immediate costs or savings associated with these regulations and any future costs are likely to be minor and affordable from existing departmental budgets.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

- 8.1. Consideration has been given to the human rights implications of these regulations. They are considered compatible with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

9. EU Implications

- 9.1. Not applicable.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

- 10.1. These regulations apply only to the Department of Health in Northern Ireland.

11. Additional Information

- 11.1. Not applicable.