

SCHEDULE 3

Regulations 2 and 24 and paragraphs 5(5),
6 and 8 of Schedule 1

OTHER CONTRACTUAL TERMS

PART 1

PATIENTS

Persons to whom mandatory services or additional services are to be provided

1.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (3) and (5), the contractor may agree to provide mandatory or additional services under the contract to any person if a request is made for such services by—

- (a) the person who requires the services; or
- (b) a person specified in sub-paragraph (2), on behalf of the person who requires those services.

(2) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1), a request for services may be made—

- (a) on behalf of any child by—
 - (i) either parent;
 - (ii) a person duly authorised by a local authority to whose care the child has been committed under the Children Act 1989⁽¹⁾; or
 - (iii) a person duly authorised by a voluntary organisation by which the child is being accommodated under the provisions of that Act; or
- (b) on behalf of any adult who is incapable of making such an application, or authorising such an application to be made on their behalf, by a relative or the primary carer of that person.

(3) The contractor may refuse to provide mandatory or additional services in relation to a person falling outside a specified group of persons only where the contract provides for the contractor to provide such services to a specified group.

(4) The contractor will only refuse to provide services under the contract to a person if it has reasonable grounds for doing so which do not relate to—

- (a) a person's race, gender, social class, age, religion, sexual orientation, appearance, disability or medical or dental condition; or
- (b) a person's decision or intended decision to accept or refuse private services in respect of himself or herself or a family member.

(5) Sub-paragraph (1) does not apply—

- (a) where the contractor is providing mandatory or additional services in a prison; or
- (b) in any event to dental public health services.

Patient preference of practitioner

2.—(1) Where the contractor has agreed to provide services to a patient it will—

- (a) inform the patient (or, in the case of a child or incapable adult, the person who made the application on their behalf) of the patient's right to express a preference to receive services from a particular performer; and

(1) 1989 c. 41.

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- (b) record in writing any such preference expressed by or on behalf of the patient.
- (2) The contractor will endeavour to comply with any reasonable preference expressed under sub-paragraph (1) but need not do so if the preferred performer—
 - (a) has reasonable grounds for refusing to provide services to the patient; or
 - (b) does not routinely perform the services required by the patient within the practice.
- (3) This paragraph does not apply—
 - (a) where the contractor is providing mandatory or additional services in a prison; or
 - (b) in any event to dental public health services.

Violent patients

- 3.—(1) Where—
 - (a) a patient of the contractor has committed an act of violence or behaved in such a way against any of the persons specified in sub-paragraph (2) as a consequence of which that person has feared for his or her safety; and
 - (b) the contractor has reported the incident to the police,the contractor may notify the Local Health Board that it will no longer provide services to that patient under the contract.
- (2) The reference to person in sub-paragraph (1) means—
 - (a) the contractor where it is an individual dental practitioner;
 - (b) in the case of a contract with two or more individuals practising in partnership, a partner in that partnership;
 - (c) in the case of a contract with a dental corporation, a director, chief executive, secretary or member of, or a legal and beneficial owner of shares in, that corporation;
 - (d) a member of the contractor’s staff;
 - (e) a person engaged by the contractor to perform or assist in the performance of services under the contract; or
 - (f) any other person present—
 - (i) on the practice premises; or
 - (ii) in the place where services were provided to the patient under the contract.
- (3) Notification under sub-paragraph (1) may be given by any means including telephone, fax or email but if not given in writing will subsequently be confirmed in writing within seven days (and for this purpose a faxed or email notification is not a written one).
- (4) The time at which the contractor notifies the Local Health Board will be the time at which it makes the telephone call or sends or delivers the notification to the Local Health Board.
- (5) The Local Health Board will—
 - (a) acknowledge in writing receipt of the notice from the contractor under sub-paragraph (1); and
 - (b) take all reasonable steps to inform the patient concerned as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Patients who refuse to pay NHS charges prior to the commencement of, or during, treatment

- 4.—(1) The contractor may—
 - (a) refuse to begin a course of treatment or an orthodontic course of treatment; or

(b) terminate a course of treatment or orthodontic course of treatment prior to its completion, if the contractor has, in accordance with the NHS Charges Regulations, requested that the patient pay a charge in respect of that course of treatment or orthodontic course of treatment, and that patient has failed to pay that charge.

Irrevocable breakdown in relationship between contractor and patient

5. Where—

- (a) in the reasonable opinion of the contractor, there has been an irrevocable breakdown in the relationship between the patient and that contractor; and
- (b) notice of such a breakdown has been given to the patient by the contractor,

the contractor may notify the Local Health Board that it will no longer provide services to that patient under the contract.

PART 2

PROVISION OF SERVICES

Course of treatment

6.—(1) Except in the case of orthodontic services and dental public health services, the contractor will provide mandatory and additional services to a patient by providing to that patient a course of treatment.

(2) The contractor will use its best endeavours to ensure that a course of treatment is completed within a reasonable time from the date on which—

- (a) the treatment plan was written in accordance with paragraph 7(1); or
- (b) where a treatment plan is not required pursuant to that paragraph, the initial examination and assessment of the patient took place.

(3) Where a contractor provides urgent treatment to a patient, the urgent treatment provided will constitute a course of treatment and no other services will be provided during that course of treatment.

(4) If a course of treatment is—

- (a) terminated before it has been completed; or
- (b) otherwise not completed within a reasonable time,

any further services to be provided to that patient under the contract must be provided as a new course of treatment.

(5) A course of treatment may only be terminated by—

- (a) the contractor—
 - (i) when the circumstances referred to in paragraph 3(1) of this Schedule (violent patients) occur and notice that it will no longer provide services has been given to the Local Health Board;
 - (ii) where the patient has refused to pay a charge in the circumstances referred to in paragraph 4 of this Schedule (refusal to pay NHS Charges during treatment); or
 - (iii) where, in the reasonable opinion of the contractor, there has been an irrevocable breakdown in the relationship between the patient and the contractor and notice of such a breakdown has been given to the patient and the Local Health Board;
- (b) the patient; or

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(c) a person specified in paragraph 1(2) of this Schedule acting on the patient's behalf.

(6) If the contractor is unable to complete the course of the treatment which has been commenced for reasons beyond its control, it will give notice to the Local Health Board of the extent of the treatment so provided and the reason for its inability to complete the remainder.

Treatment plans

7.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (5), where the contractor agrees to provide a course of treatment to a patient, it will, at the time of the initial examination and assessment of that patient, ensure that the patient is provided with a treatment plan on a form supplied for that purpose by the Local Health Board which will specify—

- (a) the name of the patient;
- (b) the name of the contractor;
- (c) particulars of the places where the patient will receive services;
- (d) the telephone number at which the contractor may be contacted during normal surgery hours;
- (e) details of the services (if any) which are, at the date of the examination, considered necessary to secure the oral health of the patient;
- (f) the NHS charge, if any, in respect of those services if provided pursuant to the contract; and
- (g) any proposals the contractor may have for private services as an alternative to the services proposed under the contract, including particulars of the cost to the patient if he or she were to accept the provision of private services.

(2) If the patient, having considered the treatment plan provided pursuant to sub-paragraph (1), decides to accept the provision of private services in place of all or part of services under the contract, the contractor will ensure that the patient signs the treatment plan in the appropriate place to indicate that he or she has understood the nature of private services to be provided and his or her acceptance of those services.

(3) Where the services included in the treatment plan under this paragraph need to be varied, the contractor will provide the patient with a revised treatment plan in accordance with sub-paragraph (1).

(4) Subject to paragraph 6(5), the contractor will provide the services which are detailed in the treatment plan, or where the treatment plan is revised, the revised treatment plan.

(5) The obligation to provide a treatment plan under this paragraph will not apply to a Band 1 course of treatment or a charge exempt course of treatment unless—

- (a) the contractor is providing privately any part of that course of treatment pursuant to paragraph 10; or
- (b) the patient has requested that he or she be provided with written details of the course of treatment to be provided or that has been provided to him or her, whether or not he or she specifically requests a treatment plan.

(6) Where a patient requests the contractor to provide him or her with a summary of the care and treatment provided under the treatment plan because he or she intends to receive services from another contractor, the contractor will provide him or her with such a summary as he or she considers appropriate (including details of the care and treatment which could not easily be observed on visual examination).

(7) The summary referred to in sub-paragraph (6) will be supplied to the patient on a form supplied for that purpose by the Local Health Board within 28 days of that request.

Completion of courses of treatment

8.—(1) The contractor will indicate on the form supplied to the Local Health Board pursuant to paragraph 38 whether the course of treatment was completed, and if the course of treatment was not completed, provide the reason for the failure to complete the course of treatment.

- (2) If the Local Health Board—
- (a) determines that the number of courses of treatment provided by the contractor which have not being completed is excessive; and
 - (b) does not consider that the reasons given by the contractor for the failure to complete the courses of treatment are satisfactory,

it will be entitled to exercise its powers under paragraph 59(2) on the grounds that the contractor is not, pursuant to paragraph 6(2), using its best endeavours to ensure courses of treatment are completed.

Referral to another contractor, a hospital or other relevant service provider for advanced mandatory, domiciliary or sedation services

9.—(1) Where a patient requires advanced mandatory services, domiciliary services or sedation services that are not provided under the contract by the contractor, it will, if the patient agrees, refer that patient in accordance with sub-paragraph (2) for the provision of a referral service by an alternative contractor, a hospital or other relevant service provider under Part 1 of the Act.

- (2) In referring a patient pursuant to sub-paragraph (1), the contractor will provide—
- (a) to the patient being referred, a referral notice on a form supplied for that purpose by the Local Health Board which will specify the services detailed on the treatment plan which will be carried out by the alternative contractor, hospital or other relevant service provider; and
 - (b) to the alternative contractor, hospital or other relevant service provider, either at the time of referral or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter—
 - (i) a copy of the treatment plan provided to the patient pursuant to paragraph 7,
 - (ii) a copy of the referral notice, and
 - (iii) a statement of the amount paid to it, or due to be paid to it, by the patient under the NHS Charges Regulations in respect of the course of treatment during which the referral is made.

(3) Where the patient notifies the contractor, whether verbally or in writing, that he or she does not wish to be referred to the alternative contractor, hospital or other relevant service provider selected by the contractor, the contractor will, if requested to do so by the patient, use its best endeavours to refer the patient to another suitable contractor, hospital or other relevant service provider under Part 1 of the Act for the provision of the referral service.

Mixing of services provided under the contract with private services

10.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph 2 and the requirements of paragraphs 2 (referral services) and 6 (orthodontic treatment plans) of Schedule 1 and paragraph 7(1)(g) of this Schedule, a contractor may, with the consent of the patient, provide privately any part of a course of treatment or orthodontic course of treatment for that patient, including in circumstances where that patient has been referred to the contractor for a referral service.

- (2) A contractor may—
- (a) not provide privately or under the contract treatment that involves the administration of general anaesthesia or the provision of sedation; and

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- (b) in the case of an orthodontic course of treatment provide—
 - (i) the case assessment wholly privately or wholly under the contract; and
 - (ii) the orthodontic treatment wholly privately or wholly under the contract.
- (3) A contractor will not, with a view to obtaining the agreement of a patient to undergo services privately—
 - (a) advise a patient that the services which are necessary in his or her case are not available from the contractor under the contract; or
 - (b) seek to mislead the patient about the quality of the services available under the contract.
- (4) In sub-paragraph (2)(a), “provision of sedation” means the provision of one or more drugs to a patient in order to produce a state of depression of the central nervous system to enable treatment to be carried out.

Repair or replacement of restorations

- 11.**—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (5), where a restoration specified in sub-paragraph (2) needs to be repaired or replaced the contractor will repair or replace the restoration at no charge to the patient.
- (2) The restorations referred to in sub-paragraph (1) are any filling, root filling, inlay, porcelain veneer or crown provided by the contractor to a patient in the course of providing services under the contract, which within the relevant period has to be repaired or replaced to secure oral health.
- (3) The repair or replacement of a restoration specified in sub-paragraph (2) is a banded course of treatment for the purposes of calculating the number of units of dental activity and paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 will apply notwithstanding that no charge is made or recovered in accordance with the NHS Charges Regulations.
- (4) The band in which a restoration specified in sub-paragraph (2) falls will be determined in accordance with the NHS Charges Regulations.
- (5) Sub-paragraph (1) will not apply where—
 - (a) within the relevant period, a person other than the contractor has provided treatment on the tooth in respect of which the restoration was provided;
 - (b) the contractor advised the patient at the time of the restoration and it was recorded on the patient record that—
 - (i) the restoration was intended to be temporary in nature; or
 - (ii) in its opinion, a different form of restoration was more appropriate to secure oral health but, notwithstanding that advice, the patient nevertheless requested the restoration which was provided;
 - (c) in the opinion of the contractor, the condition of the tooth in respect of which the restoration was provided is such that the restoration cannot satisfactorily be repaired or replaced and different treatment is now required; or
 - (d) the repair or replacement is required as a result of trauma.
- (6) In this paragraph, “the relevant period” means the 12 month period beginning on the date on which the restoration was provided, and ceasing twelve months after that date.

Premises, facilities and equipment

- 12.**—(1) The contractor will ensure that the practice premises used for the provision of services under the contract are—
 - (a) suitable for the delivery of those services; and
 - (b) sufficient to meet the reasonable needs of the contractor’s patients.

(2) The obligation in sub-paragraph (1) includes providing proper and sufficient waiting-room accommodation for patients.

(3) The contractor will provide, in relation to all of the services to be provided under the contract, such other facilities and equipment as are necessary to enable it to properly perform that service.

(4) In this paragraph, “practice premises” includes a mobile surgery.

Telephone services

13.—(1) The contractor will not be a party to any contract or other arrangement under which the number for telephone services to be used by—

- (a) patients to contact the practice for any purpose related to the contract; or
- (b) any other person to contact the practice in relation to services provided as part of the health service,

starts with the digits 087, 090 or 091 or consists of a personal number, unless the service is provided free to the caller.

(2) In this paragraph, “personal number” means a telephone number which starts with the number 070 followed by a further 8 digits.

National Institute for Clinical Excellence guidance

14. The contractor will provide services under the contract in accordance with any relevant guidance that is issued by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence⁽²⁾, in particular the guidance entitled “Dental recall— Recall interval between routine dental examinations”⁽³⁾.

Infection control

15. The contractor will ensure that it has appropriate arrangements for infection control and decontamination.

Treatment under general anaesthesia: prohibition

16. The contractor will not provide any services under the contract that involve the provision of general anaesthesia.

PART 3

SUPPLY OF DRUGS AND PRESCRIBING

General

17. The contractor will ensure that any prescription form for listed drugs, medicines or appliances issued by a prescriber complies as appropriate with the requirements in this Part.

(2) The National Institute for Clinical Excellence is established as a Special Health Authority under section 11 of the Act (S.I. 1999/220, as amended by S.I. 1999/2219, 2002/1760 and 2005/497).

(3) This guidance is available from NICE’s website, www.nice.org.uk.

Supply of drugs

18.—(1) A prescriber may supply to a patient listed drugs, medicines or appliances as are required for immediate use before the issue of a prescription for such drugs, medicines or appliances in accordance with paragraph 19.

(2) A prescriber may personally administer to a patient any drug or medicine required for the treatment of that patient.

Issue of prescription forms

19.—(1) A prescriber will order listed drugs, medicines or appliances (other than those supplied under paragraph 18) as are required for the treatment of any patient to whom it is providing services under the contract by issuing to the patient a prescription form.

(2) Every prescription form will—

(a) be signed by the prescriber; and

(b) be issued separately to each patient to whom the contractor is providing services under the contract.

(3) For the purposes of this paragraph, “prescription form” means a form that is supplied for the purposes of this paragraph by the Local Health Board.

Excessive prescribing

20. A prescriber will not prescribe drugs, medicines or appliances whose cost or quantity, in relation to any patient, is, by reason of the character of that drug, medicine or appliance, in excess of that which was reasonably necessary for the proper treatment of that patient.

PART 4

PERSONS WHO PERFORM SERVICES

Dental practitioners

21. A dental practitioner⁽⁴⁾ may perform dental services under the contract provided—

(a) he or she is included in a dental performers list for a Local Health Board in Wales; and

(b) his or her inclusion in that list is not subject to a suspension.

Dental care professionals

22.—(1) Prior to the coming into force of the first regulations under section 36A(2) of the Dentists Act⁽⁵⁾ (professions complementary to dentistry)—

(a) a dental hygienist; or

(b) a dental therapist

may perform dental services under the contract provided he or she is enrolled in the appropriate register established in accordance with the Dental Auxiliaries Regulations 1986⁽⁶⁾.

(2) Upon the coming into force of the first regulations under section 36A(2) of the Dentists Act—

(4) The term dental practitioner is defined in section 128 of the Act as a person registered in the Dentists Register under the Dentists Act.

(5) Section 36A is prospectively inserted into the Dentists Act by article 29 of the Dentists Act Order.

(6) [S.I. 1986/887](#).

- (a) a dental hygienist;
- (b) a dental therapist; or
- (c) a professional or member of a class as specified in regulations made under section 36A(2) of the Dentists Act,

may perform dental services under the contract provided—

- (i) he or she is a dental care professional; and
- (ii) his or her registration in the dental care professional register established under section 36B(7) of the Dentists Act is not subject to a suspension.

Performers: further requirements

23.—(1) No health care professional or other person other than one to whom paragraph 22 applies will perform clinical services under the contract unless he or she is appropriately registered with his or her relevant professional body and his or her registration is not subject to a suspension.

(2) Where—

- (a) the registration of a dental practitioner, dental care professional or other health care professional; or
- (b) a dental practitioner's inclusion in a dental performers list,

is subject to conditions, the contractor will ensure compliance with those conditions in so far as they are relevant to the contract.

(3) No health care professional or other person will perform any clinical services under the contract unless he or she has such clinical experience and training as are necessary to enable him or her properly to perform such services.

Conditions for employment and engagement: dental practitioners performing dental services

24.—(1) A contractor will not employ or engage a dental practitioner to perform dental services under the contract unless—

- (a) that practitioner has provided it with the name and address of the Local Health Board on whose dental performers list his or her name appears; and
- (b) the contractor has checked that the practitioner meets the requirements in paragraph 21.

(2) Where the employment or engagement of a dental practitioner is urgently needed and it is not possible to check the matters referred to in paragraph 21 in accordance with sub-paragraph (1) (b) before employing or engaging him or her he or she may be employed or engaged on a temporary basis for a single period of up to 7 days whilst such checks are undertaken.

Conditions for employment and engagement: persons performing dental services other than dental practitioners

25.—(1) The contractor will not employ or engage a dental care professional to perform dental services unless it has taken reasonable steps to satisfy itself that he or she has the clinical experience and training necessary to enable him or her to properly perform dental services and—

- (a) prior to the coming into force of the first regulations under section 36A(2) of the Dentists Act, the contractor has checked that his or her name is on the roll of the appropriate register established in accordance with the Dental Auxiliaries Regulations 1986; and

(7) Section 36B was prospectively inserted into the Dentists Act by article 29 of the Dentists Act Order.

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(b) from the coming into force of the first regulations under section 36A(2) of the Dentists Act, the contractor has checked that—

- (i) his or her name is included in the register of dental care professionals; and
- (ii) his or her registration in the dental care professional register is not subject to a suspension.

(2) Where the employment or engagement of a person specified in sub-paragraph (1) is urgently needed and it is not possible to check his or her registration in accordance with sub-paragraph (1) (where it applies) before employing or engaging him or her, he or she may be employed or engaged on a temporary basis for a single period of up to 7 days whilst such checks are undertaken.

(3) When considering a person's experience and training for the purposes of sub-paragraph (1), the contractor will have regard in particular to—

- (a) any post-graduate or post-registration qualification held by that person; and
- (b) any relevant training undertaken by him or her and any relevant clinical experience gained by him or her.

Conditions for employment and engagement: all persons performing dental services

26.—(1) The contractor will not employ or engage a person to perform dental services under the contract unless—

- (a) that person has provided two clinical references that relate to two recent posts (which may include any current post) exercising the profession in which he or she seeks employment or engagement with the contractor which lasted for three months or more without a significant break, or where this is not possible, that person has provided a full explanation and alternative referees; and
- (b) the contractor has checked and is satisfied with the references.

(2) Where the employment or engagement of a person falling within sub-paragraph (1) is urgently needed and it is not possible for the contractor to obtain and check the references in accordance with sub-paragraph (1)(b) before employing or engaging him or her, he or she may be employed or engaged on a temporary basis for a single period of up to 14 days whilst his or her references are checked and considered, and for an additional period of a further 7 days if the contractor believes the person supplying those references is ill, on holiday or otherwise temporarily unavailable.

(3) Where the contractor employs or engages the same person on more than one occasion within a period of three months, it may rely on the references provided on the first occasion, provided that those references are not more than twelve months old.

Conditions for employment or engagement: persons assisting in the provision of services under the contract

27.—(1) Before employing or engaging any person to assist it in the provision of services under the contract, the contractor will take reasonable care to satisfy itself that the person in question is both suitably qualified and competent to discharge the duties for which he or she is to be employed or engaged.

(2) The duty imposed by sub-paragraph (1) is in addition to the duties imposed by paragraphs 24 to 26.

(3) When considering the competence and suitability of any person for the purpose of sub-paragraph (1), the contractor will have regard in particular to—

- (a) that person's academic and vocational qualifications;
- (b) his or her education and training; and

- (c) his or her previous employment or work experience.

Training

28.—(1) The contractor will ensure that for any dental practitioner or dental care professional who is—

- (a) performing dental services under the contract; or
- (b) employed or engaged to assist in the performance of such services,

arrangements are in place for the purpose of maintaining and updating his or her skills and knowledge in relation to the services which he or she is performing or assisting in performing.

(2) The contractor will afford to each employee reasonable opportunities to undertake appropriate training with a view to maintaining that employee's competence.

Level of skill

29. The contractor will carry out its obligations under the contract with reasonable care and skill.

Appraisal and assessment

30. The contractor will ensure that any dental practitioner performing services under the contract—

- (a) participates in the appraisal system (if any) provided by the Local Health Board unless he or she participates in the appraisal system provided by another health service body; and
- (b) co-operates with an assessment by the NPSA when requested to do so by the Local Health Board.

Sub-contracting of clinical matters

31.—(1) The contractor will not sub-contract any of its rights or duties under the contract to any person in relation to clinical matters unless—

- (a) it has taken reasonable steps to satisfy itself that—
 - (i) it is reasonable in all the circumstances; and
 - (ii) that the person is qualified and competent to provide the service; and
- (b) it is satisfied in accordance with paragraphs 81 and 82 that the sub-contractor holds adequate insurance.

(2) Where the contractor sub-contracts any of its rights or duties under the contract in relation to clinical matters, it will—

- (a) inform the Local Health Board of the sub-contract as soon as is reasonably practicable; and
- (b) provide the Local Health Board with such information in relation to the sub-contract as it reasonably requests.

(3) Where the contractor sub-contracts clinical services in accordance with sub-paragraph (1), the parties to the contract will be deemed to have agreed a variation to the agreement which has the effect of adding to the list of the contractor's premises any premises which are to be used by the sub-contractor for the purpose of the sub-contract and paragraph 60 will not apply.

(4) A contract with a sub-contractor must prohibit the sub-contractor from sub-contracting the clinical services it has agreed with the contractor to provide.

PART 5

RECORDS, INFORMATION, NOTIFICATIONS AND RIGHTS OF ENTRY

Patient records

32.—(1) The contractor will ensure that a full, accurate and contemporaneous record is kept in the patient record in respect of the care and treatment given to each patient under the contract, including treatment given to a patient who is referred to the contractor.

(2) The patient record may be kept in electronic form.

(3) The patient record will include details of any private services (to the extent that they are provided with services under the contract) and will be kept with—

- (a) a copy of any treatment plan or referral treatment plan given to the patient pursuant to paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 (referral services) or paragraph 7 of this Schedule;
- (b) all radiographs, photographs and study casts taken or obtained by it as part of the services provided to that patient;
- (c) where an orthodontic course of treatment has been provided to a patient, a copy of the orthodontic treatment plan;
- (d) where information is to be submitted to the Local Health Board in accordance with paragraph 38 and that information is submitted electronically—
 - (i) the written declaration form in respect of exemption under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 12ZA to the Act duly made and completed in accordance regulations made under section 79 of, and paragraph 7(a) of Schedule 12ZA to that Act; and
 - (ii) a note of the evidence in support of that declaration; and
- (e) the statement concerning any custom-made devices provided by any person as a consequence of regulation 15 of the Medical Devices Regulations 2002⁽⁸⁾ (procedures for custom-made devices) in respect of services being provided to that patient.

(4) The patient record and the items referred to in sub-paragraph (3) will be retained for a period of 2 years beginning with—

- (a) the date on which—
 - (i) a course of treatment or orthodontic course of treatment is terminated, or
 - (ii) a course of treatment or an orthodontic course of treatment is completed; or
- (b) in respect of courses of treatment or orthodontic courses of treatment not falling within paragraph (a)(i) or (ii) the date by which no more services can be provided as part of that course of treatment or orthodontic course of treatment by virtue of paragraph 5(4)(b) of Schedule 1 (orthodontic course of treatment) or paragraph 6(4)(b) of this Schedule.

(5) Nothing in this paragraph will affect any property right which the contractor may have in relation to the records, radiographs, photographs and study models referred to in this paragraph.

Confidentiality of personal data

33. The contractor will nominate a person with responsibility for practices and procedures relating to the confidentiality of personal data held by it.

⁽⁸⁾ S.I. 2002/618.

Patient information

34.—(1) The contractor will ensure that there is displayed in a prominent position in its practice premises, in a part to which patients have access—

- (a) in respect of its practice based quality assurance system referred to in paragraph 80, a written statement relating to its commitment to the matters referred to in paragraph 80(4);
- (b) such information relating to NHS Charges as is supplied by the Local Health Board for the purposes of providing information to patients; and
- (c) information about the complaints procedure which it operates in accordance with Part 6, giving the name and title of the person nominated by the contractor in accordance with paragraph 50(2)(a).

(2) The contractor will—

- (a) compile a document (in this paragraph called a “patient information leaflet”) which will include the information specified in Schedule 4;
- (b) review its patient information leaflet at least once in every period of 12 months and make any amendments necessary to maintain its accuracy; and
- (c) make available a copy of the leaflet, and any subsequent updates, to its patients and prospective patients.

(3) The requirements in sub-paragraph (2) do not apply to any contractor to the extent that it provides services to persons detained in prison.

Provision of and access to information: Local Health Board

35.—(1) The contractor will, at the request of the Local Health Board—

- (a) produce to the Local Health Board or to a person authorised in writing by the Local Health Board in such format, and at such intervals or within such period, as the Local Health Board specifies; or
- (b) allow the Local Health Board, or a person authorised in writing by it to access,

the information specified in paragraph (2).

(2) The information specified for the purposes of sub-paragraph (1) is—

- (a) any information which is reasonably required by the Local Health Board for the purposes of or in connection with the contract; and
- (b) any other information which is reasonably required in connection with the Local Health Board’s functions,

and includes the contractor’s patient records.

Requests for information from Community Health Councils

36.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), where the contractor receives a written request from a Community Health Council to produce any information which appears to the Council to be necessary for the effective carrying out of its functions it will comply with that request promptly and in any event no later than the twentieth working day following the date the request was made.

(2) The contractor will not be required to produce information under sub-paragraph (1) which—

- (a) is confidential and relates to a living individual, unless at least one of the conditions specified in sub-paragraph (3) applies; or
- (b) is prohibited from disclosure by or under any enactment or any ruling of a court of competent jurisdiction or is protected by the common law, unless sub-paragraph (4) applies.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally made).

- (3) The conditions referred to in sub-paragraph (2)(a) are—
 - (a) the information can be disclosed in a form from which the identity of the individual cannot be ascertained; or
 - (b) the individual consents to the information being disclosed.
- (4) This sub-paragraph applies where—
 - (a) the prohibition of the disclosure of information arises because the information is capable of identifying an individual; and
 - (b) the information can be disclosed in a form from which the identity of the individual cannot be ascertained.
- (5) In a case where the information falls within—
 - (a) sub-paragraph (2)(a) and the condition in sub-paragraph (3)(a) applies; or
 - (b) sub-paragraph (2)(b) and sub-paragraph (4) applies,

a Community Health Council may require the contractor to disclose the information in a form from which the identity of the individual concerned cannot be ascertained.

Inquiries about prescriptions and referrals

37.—(1) The contractor will, subject to sub-paragraphs (2) and (3), sufficiently answer any inquiries whether oral or in writing from the Local Health Board concerning—

- (a) any prescription form issued by a prescriber;
- (b) the considerations by reference to which prescribers issue such forms;
- (c) the referral by or on behalf of the contractor of any patient for any other services provided under the Act; or
- (d) the considerations by which the contractor makes such referrals or provides for them to be made on its behalf.

(2) An inquiry referred to in sub-paragraph (1) may only be made for the purpose either of obtaining information to assist the Local Health Board to discharge its functions or of assisting the contractor in the discharge of its obligations under the contract.

(3) The contractor will not be obliged to answer any inquiry referred to in sub-paragraph (1) unless it is made—

- (a) in the case of sub-paragraph (1)(a) or (1)(b), by an appropriately qualified health care professional; or
- (b) in the case of sub-paragraph (1)(c) or (1)(d), by an appropriately qualified dental practitioner,

appointed in either case by the Local Health Board to assist it in the exercise of its functions under this paragraph and that person produces, on request, written evidence that he or she is authorised by the Local Health Board to make such inquiry on its behalf.

Notification of a course of treatment, orthodontic course of treatment etc.

38.—(1) The contractor will, within 2 months of the date upon which—

- (a) it completes a course of treatment in respect of mandatory or additional services;
- (b) it completes a case assessment in respect of an orthodontic course of treatment that does not lead to a course of treatment;
- (c) it provides an orthodontic appliance following a case assessment in respect of orthodontic treatment;

- (d) it completes a course of treatment in respect of orthodontic treatment;
- (e) a course of treatment in respect of mandatory services or additional services or orthodontic course of treatment being terminated; or
- (f) in respect of courses not falling within sub-paragraph (d) or (e), no more services can be provided by virtue of paragraph 5(4)(b) of Schedule 1 (orthodontic course of treatment) or paragraph 6(4)(b) of this Schedule,

send to the Local Health Board, on a form supplied by that Board, the information specified in sub-paragraph (2).

- (2) The information referred to in sub-paragraph (1) comprises of—
 - (a) details of the patient to whom it provides services;
 - (b) details of the services provided (including any appliances provided) to that patient;
 - (c) details of any NHS Charge payable (and paid) by that patient; and
 - (d) in the case of a patient exempt from NHS Charges and where such information is not submitted electronically, the written declaration form and note of evidence in support of that declaration.

Annual report and review

39.—(1) The Local Health Board will provide to the contractor an annual report relating to the contract which will contain the same categories of information for all persons who hold contracts with that Board.

(2) Once the Local Health Board has provided the report referred to in sub-paragraph (1), the Local Health Board will arrange with the contractor an annual review of its performance in relation to the contract.

(3) The Local Health Board will prepare a draft record of the review referred to in sub-paragraph (2) for comment by the contractor and, having regard to such comments, will produce a final written record of the review.

(4) A copy of the final record referred to in sub-paragraph (3) will be sent to the contractor.

Notifications to the Local Health Board

40.—(1) In addition to any requirements of notification elsewhere in the Regulations, the contractor will notify the Local Health Board in writing, as soon as reasonably practicable, of—

- (a) any serious incident that in the reasonable opinion of the contractor affects or is likely to affect the contractor's performance of its obligations under the contract; or
- (b) any circumstances which give rise to the Local Health Board's right to terminate the contract under paragraph 70 or 71(1).

(2) The contractor will, unless it is impracticable for it to do so, notify the Local Health Board in writing within 28 days of any occurrence requiring a change in the information about it published by the Local Health Board in accordance with regulations made under section 16CA(3) of the Act⁽⁹⁾ (primary dental services).

(3) The Contractor will give notice in writing to the Local Health Board when a dental practitioner who is performing or will perform services under the contract (as the case may be)—

- (a) leaves the contractor, and the date upon which he or she left; or
- (b) is employed or engaged by the contractor,

(9) Section 16CA was inserted into the Act by section 170 of the 2003 Act.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally made).

which will include the name of the dental practitioner who has left, or who has been employed or engaged, together with his or her professional registration number.

Notice provisions specific to a contract with a dental corporation

41. A contractor which is a dental corporation will give notice in writing to the Local Health Board forthwith when—

- (a) it passes a resolution or a court of competent jurisdiction makes an order that the contractor be wound up;
- (b) circumstances arise which might entitle a creditor or a court to appoint a receiver, administrator or administrative receiver for the contractor;
- (c) circumstances arise which would enable the court to make a winding up order in respect of the contractor; or
- (d) the contractor is unable to pay its debts within the meaning of section 123 of the Insolvency Act 1986⁽¹⁰⁾ (definition of inability to pay debts).

Notice provisions specific to a contract with two or more individuals practising in partnership

42.—(1) A contractor which is a partnership will give notice in writing to the Local Health Board forthwith when—

- (a) a partner leaves or informs his or her partners that he or she intends to leave the partnership, and the date upon which he or she left or will leave the partnership; or
 - (b) a new partner joins the partnership.
- (2) A notice under sub-paragraph (1)(b) will—
- (a) state the date that the new partner joined the partnership;
 - (b) confirm that the new partner is a dental practitioner, or that he or she satisfies the conditions specified in section 28M(2)(b) of the Act;
 - (c) confirm that the new partner meets the conditions imposed by regulation 4 (general conditions relating to all contracts); and
 - (d) state whether the new partner is a general or a limited partner.

Notifications to patients following a variation of the contract

43. Where the contract is varied in accordance with Part 9 of this Schedule and, as a result of that variation there is to be a change in the range of services provided by the contractor, the contractor will ensure that there is displayed in a prominent position in its practice premises, in a part to which patients have access, written details of that change.

Entry and inspection by the Local Health Board

44.—(1) Subject to—

- (a) the conditions in sub-paragraph (2); and
- (b) sub-paragraph (3),

the contractor will allow persons authorised in writing by the Local Health Board to enter and inspect the practice premises at any reasonable time.

(2) The conditions referred to in sub-paragraph (1) are that—

⁽¹⁰⁾ 1986 c. 45.

- (a) reasonable notice of the intended entry has been given;
 - (b) written evidence of the authority of the person seeking entry is produced to the contractor on request; and
 - (c) entry is not made to any premises or part of the premises used as residential accommodation without the consent of the resident.
- (3) Where the contractor is providing services under the contract in a prison, the contractor will not be obliged to comply with sub-paragraph (1), or paragraph 45 or 46, if—
- (a) the contractor has used its best endeavours to allow the Local Health Board, members of a Community Health Council or the Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection or the Assembly (as the case may be) to enter and inspect the practice premises; but
 - (b) entry and inspection has been prevented by the prison authorities despite the contractor's best endeavours.
- (4) In this paragraph “practice premises” includes a mobile surgery.

Entry and inspection by members of Community Health Councils

45. Subject to paragraph 44(3), the contractor will allow members of a Community Health Council authorised by or under regulation 20 of the Community Health Councils Regulations 2004⁽¹¹⁾ to enter and inspect the practice premises for the purpose of any of the Council's functions in accordance with that regulation.

Entry and inspection by the Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection

46. Subject to paragraph 44(3), the contractor will allow persons authorised by the Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection and the Assembly to enter and inspect premises in accordance with sections 66 and 72 of the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003⁽¹²⁾ (rights of entry).

PART 6

COMPLAINTS

Complaints procedure

47.—(1) The contractor will establish and operate a complaints procedure to deal with any complaints in relation to any matter reasonably connected with the provision of services under the contract which will comply with the requirements of paragraphs 48 to 50 and 52.

- (2) The contractor will take reasonable steps to ensure that patients are aware of—
- (a) the complaints procedure;
 - (b) the role of the Local Health Board and other bodies in relation to complaints about services under the contract; and
 - (c) their right to assistance with any complaint from independent advocacy services provided under section 19A of the Act⁽¹³⁾ (independent advocacy services).

(3) The contractor will take reasonable steps to ensure that the complaints procedure is accessible to all patients.

⁽¹¹⁾ S.I. 2004/905 (W.89) (as amended by 2005/603 (W.51)).

⁽¹²⁾ 2003 c. 43.

⁽¹³⁾ Section 19A was inserted by the 2001 Act, section 12.

Making of complaints

48.—(1) A complaint may be made by or, with his or her consent, on behalf of a patient or former patient, who is receiving or has received services under the contract, or—

- (a) where the patient is a child, by—
 - (i) a parent;
 - (ii) a person duly authorised by a local authority to whose care the child has been committed under the provisions of the Children Act 1989⁽¹⁴⁾; or
 - (iii) a person duly authorised by a voluntary organisation by which the child is being accommodated under the provisions of that Act; or
- (b) where the patient is incapable of making a complaint, by a relative or other adult person who has an interest in his or her welfare.

(2) Where a patient has died, a complaint may be made by a relative or other adult person who had an interest in his or her welfare or, where the patient falls within sub-paragraph (1)(a)(ii) or (iii) by the authority of a voluntary organisation.

Period for making complaints

49.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), the period for making a complaint is—

- (a) six months beginning with the date on which the matter which is the subject of the complaint occurred; or
- (b) six months beginning with the date on which the matter which is the subject of the complaint comes to the complainant's notice provided that the complaint is made no later than 12 months after the date on which the matter which is the subject of the complaint occurred.

(2) Where a complaint is not made during the period specified in sub-paragraph (1), it will be referred to the person nominated under paragraph 50(2)(a) and if he or she is of the opinion that—

- (a) having regard to all the circumstances of the case, it would have been unreasonable for the complainant to make the complaint within that period; and
- (b) notwithstanding the time that has elapsed since the date on which the matter which is the subject matter of the complaint occurred, it is still possible to investigate the complaint properly,

the complaint will be treated as if it had been received during the period specified in sub-paragraph (1).

Further requirements for complaints procedures

50.—(1) A complaints procedure will also comply with the requirements set out in sub-paragraphs (2) to (6).

(2) The contractor must nominate—

- (a) a person (who need not be connected with the contractor and who, in the case of an individual, may be specified by his or her job title) to be responsible for the operation of the complaints procedure and the investigation of complaints; and
- (b) a partner, or other senior person associated with the contractor, to be responsible for the effective management of the complaints procedure and for ensuring that action is taken in the light of the outcome of any investigation.

(14) 1989 c. 41.

- (3) All complaints must be—
 - (a) either made or recorded in writing;
 - (b) acknowledged in writing within the period of three working days beginning with the day on which the complaint was made or, where that is not possible, as soon as reasonably practicable; and
 - (c) properly investigated.
- (4) Within the period of 10 working days beginning with the day on which the complaint was received by the person specified under sub-paragraph (2)(a) or, where that is not possible, as soon as reasonably practicable, the complainant must be given a written summary of the investigation and its conclusions.
- (5) Where the investigation of the complaint requires consideration of the patient’s dental records, the person specified in sub-paragraph (2)(a) must inform the patient or person acting on his or her behalf if the investigation will involve disclosure of information contained in those records to a person other than the contractor or an employee of the contractor.
- (6) The contractor must keep a record of all complaints and copies of all correspondence relating to complaints for a period of at least two years from the date on which such complaints were made, but such records will be kept separate from the patients' dental records.

Co-operation with investigations

- 51.**—(1) The contractor will co-operate with—
- (a) any investigation of a complaint in relation to any matter reasonably connected with the provision of services under the contract undertaken by—
 - (i) the Local Health Board; and
 - (ii) the Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection;
 - (iii) the Assembly; and
 - (b) any investigation of a complaint by an NHS body or local authority which relates to a patient or former patient of the contractor.
- (2) In sub-paragraph (1)—
- “NHS body” means a Local Health Board, an NHS trust, an NHS foundation trust, a Strategic Health Authority, a Primary Care Trust or an equivalent body constituted in Scotland or Northern Ireland;
- “local authority” means—
- (a) any of the bodies listed in section 1 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970⁽¹⁵⁾ (local authorities);
 - (b) the Council of the Isles of Scilly; or
 - (c) a council constituted under section 2 of the Local Government etc, (Scotland) Act 1994⁽¹⁶⁾ (constitution of councils).
- (3) The co-operation required by sub-paragraph (1) includes—
- (a) answering questions reasonably put to the contractor by the Local Health Board;
 - (b) providing any information relating to the complaint reasonably required by the Local Health Board; and

⁽¹⁵⁾ 1970 c. 42; section 1 was amended by the Local Government Act 1972 (c. 70), section 195 and by the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 (c. 19), Schedule 10, paragraph 7.

⁽¹⁶⁾ 1994 c. 39.

- (c) attending any meeting to consider the complaint (if held at a reasonably accessible place and at a reasonable hour, and due notice has been given) if the contractor's presence at the meeting is reasonably required by the Local Health Board.

Provision of information

52. The contractor will inform the Local Health Board, at such intervals as the Local Health Board requires, of the number of complaints it has received under the procedure established in accordance with this Part.

PART 7

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Local resolution of contract disputes

53. In the case of any dispute arising out of or in connection with the contract, the contractor and the Local Health Board must make every reasonable effort to communicate and co-operate with each other with a view to resolving the dispute, before referring the dispute for determination in accordance with the NHS dispute resolution procedure (or, where applicable, before commencing court proceedings).

Dispute resolution: non-NHS contracts

54.—(1) In the case of a contract which is not an NHS contract, any dispute arising out of or in connection with the contract, except disputes about matters dealt with under the complaints procedure pursuant to Part 6 of this Schedule, may be referred for consideration and determination to the Assembly, if—

- (a) the Local Health Board so wishes and the contractor has agreed in writing; or
 - (b) the contractor so wishes (even if the Local Health Board does not agree).
- (2) In the case of a dispute referred to the Assembly under sub-paragraph (1)—
- (a) the procedure to be followed is the NHS dispute resolution procedure; and
 - (b) the parties agree to be bound by any determination made by the adjudicator.

NHS dispute resolution procedure

55.—(1) The procedure specified in the following sub-paragraphs and paragraph 56 applies in the case of any dispute arising out of or in connection with the contract which is referred to the Assembly—

- (a) in accordance with section 4(3) of the 1990 Act (where the contract is an NHS contract); or
 - (b) in accordance with paragraph 54 (where the contract is not an NHS contract).
- (2) Any party wishing to refer a dispute as mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) will send to the Assembly a written request for dispute resolution which will include or be accompanied by—
- (a) the names and addresses of the parties to the dispute;
 - (b) copy of the contract; and
 - (c) a brief statement describing the nature and circumstances of the dispute.
- (3) Any party wishing to refer a dispute as mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) must send the request under sub-paragraph (2) within a period of three years beginning with the date on which the matter

giving rise to the dispute happened or should reasonably have come to the attention of the party wishing to refer the dispute.

(4) Where the dispute relates to a contract which is not an NHS contract, the Assembly may determine the matter itself or, if it considers it appropriate, appoint a person or persons to consider and determine it⁽¹⁷⁾.

(5) Before reaching a decision as to who should determine the dispute, either under sub-paragraph (4) or under section 4(5) of the 1990 Act, the Assembly will, within the period of 7 days beginning with the date on which a matter was referred to it, send a written request to the parties to make in writing, within a specified period, any representations which they may wish to make about the matter.

(6) The Assembly will give, with the notice given under sub-paragraph (5), to the party other than the one which referred the matter to dispute resolution a copy of any document by which the matter was referred for dispute resolution.

(7) The Assembly will give a copy of any representations received from a party to the other party and will in each case request (in writing) a party to whom a copy of the representations is given to make within a specified period any written observations which it wishes to make on those representations.

(8) Following receipt of any representations from the parties or, if earlier, at the end of the period for making such representations specified in the request sent under sub-paragraph (5) or (7), the Assembly will, if it decides to appoint a person or persons to hear the dispute—

- (a) inform the parties in writing of the name of the person or persons whom it has appointed; and
- (b) pass to the person or persons so appointed any documents received from the parties under or pursuant to paragraph (2), (5) or (7).

(9) For the purpose of assisting the adjudicator in the consideration of the matter, the adjudicator may—

- (a) invite representatives of the parties to appear before the adjudicator to make oral representations either together or, with the agreement of the parties, separately, and may in advance provide the parties with a list of matters or questions to which the adjudicator wishes them to give special consideration; or
- (b) consult other persons whose expertise the adjudicator considers will assist in the consideration of the matter.

(10) Where the adjudicator consults another person under sub-paragraph (9)(b), the adjudicator will notify the parties accordingly in writing and, where the adjudicator considers that the interests of any party might be substantially affected by the result of the consultation, the adjudicator will give to the parties such opportunity as the adjudicator considers reasonable in the circumstances to make observations on those results.

(11) In considering the matter, the adjudicator will consider—

- (a) any written representations made in response to a request under sub-paragraph (5), but only if they are made within the specified period;
- (b) any written observations made in response to a request under sub-paragraph (7), but only if they are made within the specified period;
- (c) any oral representations made in response to an invitation under sub-paragraph (9)(a);
- (d) the results of any consultation under sub-paragraph (9)(b); and
- (e) any observations made in accordance with an opportunity given under sub-paragraph (10).

⁽¹⁷⁾ Where the dispute relates to a contract which is an NHS contract, section 4(5) of the 1990 Act applies.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally made).

(12) In this paragraph, “specified period” means such period as the Assembly will specify in the request, being not less than two, nor more than four, weeks beginning with the date on which the notice referred to is given, but the Assembly may, if it considers that there is good reason for doing so, extend any such period (even after it has expired) and, where it does so, a reference in this paragraph to the specified period is to the period as so extended.

(13) Subject to the other provisions of this paragraph and paragraph 56, the adjudicator will have wide discretion in determining the procedure of the dispute resolution to ensure the just, expeditious, economical and final determination of the dispute.

Determination of dispute

56.—(1) The adjudicator will record the determination and the reasons for it, in writing and will give notice of the determination (including the record of the reasons) to the parties.

(2) In the case of a contract referred for determination in accordance with paragraph 54(1), subsection (8) of section 4 of the 1990 Act will apply as that subsection applies in the case of a contract referred for determination in accordance with subsection (3) of section 4 of that Act.

(3) In the case of a contract referred for determination in accordance with paragraph 54(1), subsection (5) of section 28P of the Act⁽¹⁸⁾ (GDS contracts: disputes and enforcement) will apply as that subsection applies in the case of a contract referred for determination in accordance with subsection (3) of section 4 of the 1990 Act.

Interpretation of Part 7

57.—(1) In this Part, reference to any dispute arising out of or in connection with the contract include any dispute arising out of or in connection with the termination of the contract.

(2) Any term of the contract that makes provision in respect of the requirements in this Part will survive even where the contract has terminated.

PART 8

MID-YEAR REVIEW OF ACTIVITY UNDER CONTRACTS

Mid-year reviews

58.—(1) This paragraph and paragraph 59 only apply where services are to be provided under the contract from 1 April in any financial year.

(2) In this paragraph and paragraph 59, references to requirements to provide units of dental activity or orthodontic activity are to such requirements under the terms of the contract giving effect to regulation 17 (units of dental activity) or 18 (units of orthodontic activity).

(3) The Local Health Board will, by 31 October in each financial year, determine the number of—

- (a) units of dental activity; or
- (b) units of orthodontic activity,

that the contractor has provided between 1 April and 30 September of that financial year based on the data provided to it by virtue of paragraph 38.

(4) Where the Local Health Board determines under sub-paragraph (3) that the contractor has, between 1 April and 30 September, provided less than 30 per cent of the total number of—

- (a) units of dental activity; or

⁽¹⁸⁾ Section 28P was inserted into the Act by section 172(1) of the 2003 Act.

- (b) units of orthodontic activity,
- that it is required to provide in that financial year, sub-paragraph (5) will apply.
- (5) Where this sub-paragraph applies, the Local Health Board may—
 - (a) notify the contractor that it is concerned about the level of activity provided under the contract in the first half of the financial year, setting out—
 - (i) the number of units of dental activity or units of orthodontic activity (as the case may be) that it has determined that the contractor has provided, and
 - (ii) the percentage of the total number of units of dental activity or units of orthodontic activity (as the case may be) required to be provided during the financial year that the number in sub-paragraph (i) represents; and
 - (b) require in that notification that the contractor participate in a mid-year review of its performance in relation to the contract with the Local Health Board.
 - (6) Where a mid-year review is required by the Local Health Board pursuant to sub-paragraph (5), the Local Health Board and the contractor will discuss at that review—
 - (a) any written evidence the contractor puts forward to demonstrate that it has performed a greater number of units of dental activity or units of orthodontic activity during the first half of the financial year than those notified to it pursuant to sub-paragraph (5)(a)(i); and
 - (b) any reasons that the contractor puts forward for the level of activity in the first half of the financial year.
 - (7) The Local Health Board will prepare a draft record of the mid-year review for comment by the contractor and, having regard to such comments, will produce a final written record of the review.
 - (8) A copy of the final record of the mid-year review will be sent to the contractor.

Action the Local Health Board can take following a mid-year review

59.—(1) Where, following the mid-year review and the sending of the final record of that review to the contractor, the Local Health Board, having taken account of any evidence or reasons put forward by the contractor at that review, nevertheless has serious concerns that the contractor is unlikely to provide the number of—

- (a) units of dental activity; or
- (b) units of orthodontic activity,

that it is required to provide by the end of the financial year, the Local Health Board will be entitled to take either or both of the steps specified in sub-paragraph (2).

- (2) The Local Health Board may—
 - (a) require the contractor to comply with a written plan drawn up by the Local Health Board to ensure that the level of activity during the remainder of the financial year is such that the contractor will provide the number of units of dental activity or units of orthodontic activity it is required to provide; or
 - (b) withhold monies payable under the contract.
- (3) The maximum amount that may be withheld pursuant to sub-paragraph (2)(b) is—
 - (a) the amount that is payable under the contract in respect of the number of units of dental activity or units of orthodontic activity required to be provided in a financial year, less
 - (b) the amount that would be payable under the contract as a relevant proportion of that amount if the contractor provided in the whole of the financial year only twice the number of units of dental activity or orthodontic activity that he or she provided between 1 April and 30 September.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally made).

(4) Nothing in this paragraph will prevent the Local Health Board and the contractor agreeing to vary the contract in accordance with paragraph 61 to adjust—

- (a) the level of activity to be provided under the contract; or
- (b) the monies to be paid by the Local Health Board to the contractor under the contract.

(5) Where the Local Health Board withholds monies under paragraph (2), it will ensure that it pays the withheld monies to the contractor as soon as possible following the end of the financial year where the contractor has—

- (a) provided the number of units of dental activity or units of orthodontic activity required to be provided; or
- (b) failed to provide that number of units of dental activity or units of orthodontic activity, but that failure amounts to 5 per cent or less of the total number of units of dental activity or units of orthodontic activity that ought to have been provided during that financial year (and therefore regulation 19 applies).

PART 9

VARIATION AND TERMINATION OF CONTRACTS

Variation of a contract: general

60.—(1) Subject to paragraph 31(3), no amendment or variation will have effect unless it is in writing and signed by or on behalf of the Local Health Board and the contractor.

(2) In addition to the specific provision made in paragraphs 62(6), 63(6) and 75, the Local Health Board may vary the contract without the contractor's consent where it—

- (a) is reasonably satisfied that it is necessary to vary the contract so as to comply with the Act, any regulations made pursuant to that Act, or any direction given by the Assembly pursuant to that Act; and
- (b) notifies the contractor in writing of the wording of the proposed variation and the date upon which that variation is to take effect,

and, where it is reasonably practicable to do so, the date that the proposed variation is to take effect will be not less than 14 days after the date on which the notice under sub-paragraph (b) is served on the contractor.

Variation of a contract: activity under the contract

61.—(1) Where the contractor or the Local Health Board is of the opinion that there needs to be a variation to the number of—

- (a) units of dental activity; or
- (b) units of orthodontic activity,

to be provided under the contract, sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) will apply.

(2) The contractor or the Local Health Board (as the case may be) will notify the other party to the contract in writing of its opinion of the need for a variation, specifying in that notice the variation that it considers necessary, together with its reasons.

(3) Following service of the notice referred to in sub-paragraph (2), both parties will use their best endeavours to communicate and co-operate with each other with a view to determining what (if any) variation should be made to the—

- (a) units of dental activity; or

(b) units of orthodontic activity,
and any related variations to the contract, including to the monies to be paid to the contractor under the contract, and will, where appropriate, effect the variation in accordance with paragraph 60.

Variation provisions specific to a contract with an individual dental practitioner

62.—(1) If a contractor which is an individual dental practitioner proposes to practise in partnership with one or more persons during the existence of the contract, the contractor will notify the Local Health Board in writing of—

- (a) the name of the person or persons with whom it proposes to practise in partnership; and
- (b) the date on which the contractor wishes to change its status as a contractor from that of an individual dental practitioner to that of a partnership, which will be not less than 28 days after the date upon which it has served the notice on the Local Health Board pursuant to this sub-paragraph.

(2) A notice under sub-paragraph (1) will in respect of the person or each of the persons with whom the contractor is proposing to practise in partnership, and also in respect of itself as regards the matters specified in sub-paragraph (c)—

- (a) confirm that he or she is either—
 - (i) a dental practitioner, or
 - (ii) a person who satisfies the conditions specified in section 28M(2)(b) of the Act⁽¹⁹⁾;
- (b) confirm that he or she is a person who satisfies the conditions imposed by regulation 4; and
- (c) state whether or not it is to be a limited partnership, and if so, who is to be a limited and who is to be a general partner,

and the notice will be signed by the individual dental practitioner and by the person, or each of the persons (as the case may be), with whom he or she is proposing to practise in partnership.

(3) The contractor will ensure that any person who will practise in partnership with it is bound by the contract, whether by virtue of a partnership deed or otherwise.

(4) If the Local Health Board is satisfied as to the accuracy of the matters specified in sub-paragraph (2) that are included in the notice, the Local Health Board will give notice in writing to the contractor confirming that the contract will continue with the partnership entered into by the contractor and its partners, from a date that the Local Health Board specifies in that notice.

(5) Where it is reasonably practicable, the date specified by the Local Health Board pursuant to sub-paragraph (4) will be the date requested in the notice served by the contractor pursuant to sub-paragraph (1), or, where that date is not reasonably practicable, the date specified will be a date after the requested date that is as close to the requested date as is reasonably practicable.

(6) Where a contractor has given notice to the Local Health Board pursuant to sub-paragraph (1), the Local Health Board—

- (a) may vary the contract but only to the extent that it is satisfied is necessary to reflect the change in status of the contractor from an individual dental practitioner to a partnership; and
- (b) if it does propose to so vary the contract, it will include in the notice served on the contractor pursuant to sub-paragraph (4) the wording of the proposed variation and the date upon which that variation is to take effect.

⁽¹⁹⁾ Section 28M was inserted into the Act by section 172(1) of the 2003 Act.

Variation provisions specific to a contract with two or more individuals practising in partnership

63.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (4), where a contractor consists of two or more individuals practising in partnership in the event that the partnership is terminated or dissolved, the contract will only continue with one of the former partners if that partner is—

- (a) nominated in accordance with sub-paragraph (3); and
- (b) a dental practitioner,

and provided that the requirements in sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) are met.

(2) A contractor will notify the Local Health Board in writing at least 28 days in advance of the date on which the contractor proposes to change its status from that of a partnership to that of an individual dental practitioner pursuant to sub-paragraph (1).

(3) A notice under sub-paragraph (2) will—

- (a) specify the date on which the contractor proposes to change its status from that of a partnership to that of an individual dental practitioner;
- (b) specify the name of the dental practitioner with whom the contract will continue, which must be one of the partners; and
- (c) be signed by all of the persons who are practising in partnership.

(4) If a partnership is terminated or dissolved because, in a partnership consisting of two individuals practising in partnership, one of the partners has died, sub-paragraphs (1) to (3) do not apply and—

- (a) the contract will continue with the individual who has not died only if that individual is a dental practitioner; and
- (b) that individual will in any event notify the Local Health Board in writing as soon as is reasonably practicable of the death of his or her partner.

(5) When the Local Health Board receives a notice pursuant to sub-paragraph (2) or (4)(b), it will acknowledge in writing receipt of the notice, and in relation to a notice served pursuant to sub-paragraph (2), the Board will do so before the date specified pursuant to sub-paragraph (3)(a).

(6) Where a contractor gives notice to the Local Health Board pursuant to sub-paragraph (2) or (4)(b), the Local Health Board may vary the contract but only to the extent that it is satisfied is necessary to reflect the change in status of the contractor from a partnership to an individual dental practitioner.

(7) If the Local Health Board varies the contract pursuant to sub-paragraph (6), it will notify the contractor in writing of the wording of the proposed variation and the date upon which that variation is to take effect.

Termination by agreement

64. The Local Health Board and the contractor may agree in writing to terminate the contract, and if the parties so agree, they will agree the date upon which that termination should take effect and any further terms upon which the contract should be terminated.

Termination on the death of an individual dental practitioner

65.—(1) Where the contract is with an individual dental practitioner and that practitioner dies, the contract will terminate at the end of the period of seven days after the date of his or her death unless, before the end of that period—

- (a) subject to sub-paragraph (2), the Local Health Board has agreed in writing with the contractor's personal representatives that the contract should continue for a further period, not exceeding three months after the end of the period of seven days; and
- (b) the contractor's personal representatives have confirmed in writing to the Local Health Board that they are employing or engaging one or more dental practitioners to assist in the provision of dental services under the contract throughout the period for which it continues.

(2) Where the Local Health Board is of the opinion, that another contractor may wish to enter into a contract in respect of the mandatory services which were provided by the deceased dental practitioner, the three month period referred to in sub-paragraph (1)(a) may be extended by a period not exceeding six months as may be agreed.

(3) Sub-paragraph (1) does not affect any other rights to terminate the agreement which the Local Health Board may have under paragraphs 69 to 74.

Termination by the contractor

66.—(1) A contractor may terminate the contract by serving notice in writing on the Local Health Board at any time.

(2) Where a contractor serves notice pursuant to sub-paragraph (1), the contract will terminate on a date three months after the date on which the notice is served ("the termination date"), save that if the termination date is not the last calendar day of a month, the contract will instead terminate on the last calendar day of the month in which the termination date falls.

(3) This paragraph and paragraph 67 are without prejudice to any other rights to terminate the contract that the contractor may have.

Late payment notices

67.—(1) The contractor may give notice in writing (a "late payment notice") to the Local Health Board if the Board has failed to make any payments due to the contractor in accordance with a term of the contract that has the effect specified in regulation 21 (finance), and the contractor will specify in the late payment notice the payments that the Board has failed to make in accordance with that regulation.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), the contractor may, at least 28 days after having served a late payment notice, terminate the contract by a further written notice if the Local Health Board has still failed to make the payments that were due to the contractor and that were specified in the late payment notice served on the Local Health Board pursuant to sub-paragraph (1).

(3) If, following receipt of a late payment notice, the Local Health Board refers the matter to the NHS dispute resolution procedure within 28 days of the date upon which it is served with the late payment notice, and it notifies the contractor in writing that it has done so within that period of time, the contractor may not terminate the contract pursuant to sub-paragraph (2) until—

- (a) there has been a determination of the dispute pursuant to paragraph 56 and that determination permits the contractor to terminate the contract; or
- (b) the Local Health Board ceases to pursue the NHS dispute resolution procedure,

whichever is the sooner.

Termination by the Local Health Board: general

68. The Local Health Board may only terminate the contract in accordance with the provisions in this Part.

Termination by the Local Health Board: no longer eligible to enter into and breach of conditions of the contract

69.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), the Local Health Board will serve notice in writing on the contractor terminating the contract forthwith if—

- (a) the contract was entered into pursuant to section 28M(1)(a) of the Act (persons eligible to enter into GDS contracts); and
- (b) the contractor is no longer a dental practitioner.

(2) Where a contractor ceases to be a dental practitioner by virtue of a suspension specified in sub-paragraph (6), sub-paragraph (1) will not apply unless—

- (a) the contractor is unable to satisfy the Local Health Board that it has in place adequate arrangements for the provision of dental services under the contract for so long as the suspension continues; or
- (b) the Local Health Board is satisfied that the circumstances of the suspension are such that if the contract is not terminated forthwith—
 - (i) the safety of the contractor’s patients is at serious risk, or
 - (ii) the Local Health Board is at risk of material financial loss.

(3) Except in a case to which paragraph 63(4) applies, where the contractor is two or more persons practising in partnership and the condition prescribed in section 28M(2)(a) of the Act is no longer satisfied, the Local Health Board will—

- (a) serve notice in writing on the contractor terminating the contract forthwith; or
- (b) serve notice in writing on the contractor confirming that the Local Health Board will allow the contract to continue for a period specified by the Local Health Board in accordance with sub-paragraph (4) (the “interim period”) if the Local Health Board is satisfied that the contractor has in place adequate arrangements for the provision of dental services for the interim period.

(4) The period specified by the Local Health Board under sub-paragraph (3)(b) will not exceed—

- (a) six months; or
- (b) in a case where the failure of the contractor to continue to satisfy the condition in section 28M(2)(a) of the Act is the result of a suspension referred to in sub-paragraph (6), the period for which that suspension continues.

(5) Where the contract was entered into pursuant to section 28M(1)(b) of the Act, but the contractor ceases to be a dental corporation, the Local Health Board will serve notice in writing on the contractor terminating the contract forthwith.

(6) The suspensions referred to in sub-paragraphs (2) and (4)(b) are—

- (a) until the coming into force article 18 of the Dentists Act Order (substitution of sections 27 and 28)—
 - (i) suspension by the Health Committee under section 28 of the Dentists Act (powers of the Health Committee),
 - (ii) suspension by the Professional Conduct Committee or the Health Committee under section 30(3) of that Act (orders for immediate suspension), or
 - (iii) suspension by the Preliminary Proceedings Committee under section 32 of that Act (orders for interim suspension);

(b) from the coming into force of article 18 of the Dentists Act Order for all purposes—

- (i) suspension by the Health Committee, the Professional Performance Committee or the Professional Conduct Committee under section 27B or 27C of the Dentists

Act, except under section 27C(1)(d) (indefinite suspension), following a relevant determination;

- (ii) suspension by the Health Committee, the Professional Performance Committee or the Professional Conduct Committee under section 30(1) of that Act (orders for immediate suspension), or
- (iii) suspension by the Health Committee, the Professional Performance Committee, the Professional Conduct Committee or the Interim Orders Committee under section 32 of that Act (interim orders).

(7) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (6)(b)(i), a “relevant determination” is a determination that a person’s fitness to practise is impaired based solely on the ground mentioned in—

- (a) section 27(2)(b) of the Dentist Act (deficient professional performance) or
- (b) section 27(2)(c) of that Act (adverse physical or mental health).

Termination by the Local Health Board for the provision of untrue etc. information

70. The Local Health Board may serve notice in writing on the contractor terminating the contract forthwith, or from such date as may be specified in the notice if, after the contract has been entered into, it comes to the attention of the Local Health Board that written information provided to the Local Health Board by the contractor—

- (a) before the contract was entered into; or
- (b) pursuant to paragraph 42(2),

in relation to the conditions set out in regulation 4 or 5 (and compliance with those conditions) was, when given, untrue or inaccurate in a material respect.

Termination by the Local Health Board on grounds of suitability etc.

71.—(1) The Local Health Board may serve notice in writing on the contractor terminating the contract forthwith, or from such date as may be specified in the notice if—

- (a) in the case of a contract with a dental practitioner, that dental practitioner;
- (b) in the case of a contract with two or more individuals practising in partnership, any individual or the partnership; and
- (c) in the case of a contract with a dental corporation—
 - (i) the corporation, or
 - (ii) any director, chief executive or secretary of the corporation,

falls within sub-paragraph (2) during the existence of the contract or, if later, on or after the date on which a notice in respect of his or her compliance with the conditions in regulation 4 or 5 was given under paragraph 42(2).

(2) A person falls within this sub-paragraph if—

- (a) he, she or it is the subject of a national disqualification;
- (b) subject to sub-paragraph (3), he, she or it is disqualified or suspended (other than by an interim suspension order or direction pending an investigation or a suspension on the grounds of ill-health) from practising by any licensing body anywhere in the world;
- (c) subject to sub-paragraph (4), he or she has been dismissed (otherwise than by reason of redundancy) from any employment by a health service body unless before the Local Health Board has served a notice terminating the contract pursuant to this paragraph, he or she is employed by the health service body that dismissed him or her or by another health service body;

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- (d) he, she or it is removed from, or refused admission to, a primary care list by reason of inefficiency, fraud or unsuitability (within the meaning of section 49F(2), (3) and (4) of the Act⁽²⁰⁾ respectively) unless his or her name has subsequently been included in such a list;
- (e) he or she has been convicted in the United Kingdom of—
 - (i) murder, or
 - (ii) a criminal offence other than murder, committed on or after 26 August 2002, and has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of over six months;
- (f) subject to sub-paragraph (5), he or she has been convicted outside the United Kingdom of an offence—
 - (i) which would, if committed in England and Wales, constitute murder, or
 - (ii) committed on or after 26 August 2002, which would if committed in England and Wales, constitute a criminal offence other than murder, and been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of over six months;
- (g) he or she has been convicted of an offence referred to in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933⁽²¹⁾ (offences against children and young persons with respect to which special provisions of this Act apply) or Schedule 1 to the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995⁽²²⁾ (offences against children under the age of 17 years to which special provisions apply);
- (h) he, she or it has—
 - (i) been adjudged bankrupt or had sequestration of his or her estate awarded unless (in either case) he or she has been discharged or the bankruptcy order has been annulled;
 - (ii) been made the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or an interim bankruptcy restrictions order under Schedule 4A to the Insolvency Act 1986⁽²³⁾, unless that order has ceased to have effect or has been annulled;
 - (iii) made a composition or arrangement with, or granted a trust deed for, his, her or its creditors unless he, she or it has been discharged in respect of it; or
 - (iv) been wound up under Part IV of the Insolvency Act 1986;
- (i) there is—
 - (i) an administrator, administrative receiver or receiver appointed in respect of it; or
 - (ii) an administration order made in respect of it under Schedule B1 to the Insolvency Act 1986⁽²⁴⁾;
- (j) that person is a partnership and—
 - (i) a dissolution of the partnership is ordered by any competent court, tribunal or arbitrator; or
 - (ii) an event happens that makes it unlawful for the business of the partnership to continue, or for members of the partnership to carry on in partnership;
- (k) he or she has been—
 - (i) removed from the office of charity trustee or trustee for a charity by an order made by the Charity Commissioners or the High Court on the grounds of any misconduct

⁽²⁰⁾ Section 49F was inserted into the Act by section 25 of the 2001 Act.

⁽²¹⁾ 1933 c. 12 as amended by the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 (c. 28), section 58(1), Schedule 10, paragraph 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (c. 42) section 139 and Schedule 6 paragraph 7, the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (c. 33), section 170 and Schedule 15, paragraph 8 and Schedule 16, paragraph 16 and the Sexual Offences Act 1956 (c. 69), sections 48 and 51 and Schedules 3 and 4; and as modified by the Criminal Justice Act 1988, section 170(1), Schedule 15, paragraph 9.

⁽²²⁾ 1995 c. 46.

⁽²³⁾ 1986 c. 45. Schedule 4A was inserted by section 257 of, and Schedule 3 to, the Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40).

⁽²⁴⁾ Schedule B1 was inserted by section 248 of, and Schedule 16 to, the Enterprise Act 2002.

or mismanagement in the administration of the charity for which he or she was responsible or to which he or she was privy, or which he or she by his or her conduct contributed to or facilitated; or

- (ii) removed under section 7 of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Act 1990⁽²⁵⁾ (powers of the Court of Session to deal with management of charities), from being concerned in the management or control of any body;
- (l) he or she is subject to a disqualification order under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986⁽²⁶⁾, the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986⁽²⁷⁾ or to an order made under section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986 (failure to pay under county court administration order); or
- (m) he or she has refused to comply with a request by the Local Health Board for him or her to be medically examined on the grounds that it is concerned that he or she is incapable of adequately providing services under the contract and, in a case where the contract is with two or more individuals practising in partnership or with a dental corporation, the Local Health Board is not satisfied that the contractor is taking adequate steps to deal with the matter.

(3) A Local Health Board will not terminate the contract pursuant to sub-paragraph (2)(b) where the Local Health Board is satisfied that the disqualification or suspension imposed by a licensing body outside the United Kingdom does not make the person unsuitable to be—

- (a) a contractor;
- (b) a partner, in the case of a contract with two or more individuals practising in partnership; or
- (c) in the case of a contract with a dental corporation, a director, chief executive or secretary of the corporation.

(4) A Local Health Board will not terminate the contract pursuant to sub-paragraph (2)—

- (a) until a period of at least three months has elapsed since the date of the dismissal of the person concerned; or
- (b) if, during the period of time specified in paragraph (a), the person concerned brings proceedings in any competent tribunal or court in respect of his or her dismissal, until proceedings before that tribunal or court are concluded,

and the Local Health Board may only terminate the contract at the end of the period specified in paragraph (b) if there is no finding of unfair dismissal at the end of those proceedings.

(5) A Local Health Board will not terminate the contract pursuant to sub-paragraph (2)(f) where the Local Health Board is satisfied that the conviction does not make the person unsuitable to be—

- (a) a contractor;
- (b) a partner, in the case of a contract with two or more individuals practising in partnership; or
- (c) in the case of a contract with a dental corporation, a director, chief executive or secretary of the corporation,

as the case may be.

Termination by the Local Health Board: patient safety and material financial loss

72. The Local Health Board may serve notice in writing on the contractor terminating the contract forthwith or with effect from such date as may be specified in the notice if—

⁽²⁵⁾ 1990 c. 40.

⁽²⁶⁾ 1986 c. 46 as amended by the Insolvency Act 2000 (c. 39).

⁽²⁷⁾ S.I. 1986/1032 (N.I. 6).

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- (a) the contractor has breached the contract and as a result of that breach, the safety of the contractor's patients is at serious risk if the contract is not terminated; or
- (b) the contractor's financial situation is such that the Local Health Board considers that the Local Health Board is at risk of material financial loss.

Termination by the Local Health Board: remedial notices and breach notices

73.—(1) Where a contractor has breached the contract other than as specified in paragraphs 70 to 72 and the breach is capable of remedy, the Local Health Board will, before taking any action it is otherwise entitled to take by virtue of the contract, serve a notice on the contractor requiring it to remedy the breach ("remedial notice").

(2) A remedial notice will specify—

- (a) details of the breach;
- (b) the steps the contractor must take to the satisfaction of the Local Health Board in order to remedy the breach; and
- (c) the period during which the steps must be taken ("the notice period").

(3) The notice period will, unless the Local Health Board is satisfied that a shorter period is necessary to—

- (a) protect the safety of the contractor's patients; or
- (b) protect itself from material financial loss,

be no less than 28 days from the date that notice is given.

(4) Where a Local Health Board is satisfied that the contractor has not taken the required steps to remedy the breach by the end of the notice period, the Local Health Board may terminate the contract with effect from such date as the Local Health Board may specify in a further notice to the contractor.

(5) Where a contractor has breached the contract other than as specified in paragraphs 70 to 72 and the breach is not capable of remedy, the Local Health Board may serve notice on the contractor requiring the contractor not to repeat the breach ("breach notice").

(6) If, following a breach notice or a remedial notice, the contractor—

- (a) repeats the breach that was the subject of the breach notice or the remedial notice; or
- (b) otherwise breaches the contract resulting in either a remedial notice or a further breach notice,

the Local Health Board may serve notice on the contractor terminating the contract with effect from such date as may be specified in that notice.

(7) The Local Health Board will not exercise its right to terminate the contract under sub-paragraph (6) unless it is satisfied that the cumulative effect of the breaches is such that the Local Health Board considers that to allow the contract to continue would be prejudicial to the efficiency of the services to be provided under the contract.

(8) If the contractor is in breach of any obligation and a breach notice or a remedial notice in respect of that default has been given to the contractor, the Local Health Board may withhold or deduct monies which would otherwise be payable under the contract in respect of that obligation which is the subject of the breach.

Termination by the Local Health Board: additional provisions specific to contracts with two or more individuals practising in partnership and dental corporations

74.—(1) Where the contractor is a dental corporation, if the Local Health Board becomes aware that the contractor is carrying on any business which the Local Health Board considers to be detrimental to the contractor’s performance of its obligations under the contract—

- (a) the Local Health Board will be entitled to give notice to the contractor requiring that it ceases carrying on that business before the end of a period of not less than 28 days beginning on the day on which the notice is given (“the notice period”); and
- (b) if the contractor has not satisfied the Local Health Board that it has ceased carrying on that business by the end of the notice period, the Local Health Board may, by a further written notice, terminate the contract forthwith or from such date as may be specified in the notice.

(2) Where the contractor is a dental corporation and on or after the coming into force for all purposes of article 39 of the Dentists Act Order during the existence of the contract—

- (a) the majority of the directors of the dental corporation cease to be either dental practitioners or dental care professionals;
- (b) the dental corporation has been convicted of an offence under section 43(1) of the Dentists Act(28) (directors of bodies corporate); or
- (c) the dental corporation, or a director or former director of that corporation, has had a financial penalty imposed on it or him or her by the General Dental Council pursuant to section 43B (financial penalties in relation to bodies corporate) or 44 (further financial penalties on bodies corporate) of the Dentists Act(29),

the Local Health Board may, by written notice, terminate the contract if it considers that as a consequence the dental corporation is no longer suitable to be a contractor.

(3) Where the contractor is two or more persons practising in partnership, the Local Health Board will be entitled to terminate the contract by notice in writing on such date as may be specified in that notice where one or more partners have left the practice during the existence of the contract if, in its reasonable opinion, the Local Health Board considers that the change in membership of the partnership is likely to have a serious adverse impact on the ability of the contractor or the Local Health Board to perform its obligations under the contract.

(4) A notice given to the contractor pursuant to sub-paragraph (3) will specify—

- (a) the date upon which the contract is to be terminated; and
- (b) the Local Health Board’s reasons for considering that the change in the membership of the partnership is likely to have a serious adverse impact on the ability of the contractor or the Local Health Board to perform its obligations under the contract.

Contract sanctions

75.—(1) In this paragraph and paragraph 76, “contract sanction” means—

- (a) termination of specified reciprocal obligations under the contract;
- (b) suspension of specified reciprocal obligations under the contract for a period of up to six months; or
- (c) withholding or deducting monies otherwise payable under the contract.

(2) Where the Local Health Board is entitled to terminate the contract pursuant to paragraph 70, 71, 72, 73(4), 73(6) or 74, it may instead impose any of the contract sanctions if the Local Health

(28) Section 43 of the Dentists Act is substituted by the Dentists Act Order, article 39.

(29) Section 43B is inserted into, and section 44 is substituted by, the Dentists Act Order, article 39.

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Board is reasonably satisfied that the contract sanction to be imposed is appropriate and proportionate to the circumstances giving rise to the Local Health Board's entitlement to terminate the contract.

(3) The Local Health Board will not, under sub-paragraph (2), be entitled to impose any contract sanction that has the effect of terminating or suspending any obligation to provide, or any obligation that relates to, mandatory services.

(4) If the Local Health Board decides to impose a contract sanction, it must notify the contractor of the contract sanction that it proposes to impose, the date upon which that sanction will be imposed and provide in that notice an explanation of the effect of the imposition of that sanction.

(5) Subject to paragraph 76, the Local Health Board will not impose the contract sanction until at least 28 days after it has served notice on the contractor pursuant to sub-paragraph (4) unless the Local Health Board is satisfied that it is necessary to do so in order to—

- (a) protect the safety of the contractor's patients; or
- (b) protect itself from material financial loss.

(6) Where the Local Health Board imposes a contract sanction, the Local Health Board will be entitled to charge the contractor the reasonable costs of additional administration that the Local Health Board has incurred in order to impose, or as a result of imposing, the contract sanction.

Contract sanctions and the NHS dispute resolution procedure

76.—(1) If there is a dispute between the Local Health Board and the contractor in relation to a contract sanction that the Local Health Board is proposing to impose, the Local Health Board will not, subject to sub-paragraph (4), impose the proposed contract sanction except in the circumstances specified in sub-paragraph (2)(a).

(2) If the contractor refers the dispute relating to the contract sanction to the NHS dispute resolution procedure within 28 days beginning on the date on which the Local Health Board served notice on the contractor in accordance with paragraph 75(4) (or such longer period as may be agreed in writing with the Local Health Board), and notifies the Local Health Board in writing that it has done so, the Local Health Board will not impose the contract sanction unless—

- (a) there has been a determination of the dispute pursuant to paragraph 56 and that determination permits the Local Health Board to impose the contract sanction; or
- (b) the contractor ceases to pursue the NHS dispute resolution procedure,

whichever is the sooner.

(3) If the contractor does not invoke the NHS dispute resolution procedure within the time specified in sub-paragraph (2), the Local Health Board will be entitled to impose the contract sanction forthwith.

(4) If the Local Health Board is satisfied that it is necessary to impose the contract sanction before the NHS dispute resolution procedure is concluded in order to—

- (a) protect the safety of the contractor's patients; or
- (b) protect itself from material financial loss,

the Local Health Board will be entitled to impose the contract sanction forthwith, pending the outcome of that procedure.

Termination and the NHS dispute resolution procedure

77.—(1) Where the Local Health Board is entitled to serve written notice on the contractor terminating the contract pursuant to paragraph 70, 71, 72, 73(4), 73(6) or 74, the Local Health Board will, in the notice served on the contractor pursuant to those provisions, specify a date on which the

contract terminates that is not less than 28 days after the date on which the Local Health Board has served that notice on the contractor unless sub-paragraph (2) applies.

(2) This sub-paragraph applies if the Local Health Board is satisfied that a period less than 28 days is necessary in order to—

- (a) protect the safety of the contractor's patients; or
- (b) protect itself from material financial loss.

(3) In a case falling with sub-paragraph (1), where the exceptions in sub-paragraph (2) do not apply, where the contractor invokes the NHS dispute resolution procedure before the end of the period of notice referred to in sub-paragraph (1), and it notifies the Local Health Board in writing that it has done so, the contract will not terminate at the end of the notice period but instead will only terminate in the circumstances specified in sub-paragraph (4).

(4) The contract will only terminate if and when—

- (a) there has been a determination of the dispute pursuant to paragraph 56 and that determination permits the Local Health Board to terminate the contract; or
- (b) the contractor ceases to pursue the NHS dispute resolution procedure,

whichever is the sooner.

(5) If the Local Health Board is satisfied that it is necessary to terminate the contract before the NHS dispute resolution procedure is concluded in order to—

- (a) protect the safety of the contractor's patients; or
- (b) protect itself from material financial loss,

sub-paragraphs (3) and (4) will not apply and the Local Health Board will be entitled to confirm, by written notice to be served on the contractor, that the contract will nevertheless terminate at the end of the period of the notice it served pursuant to paragraph 70, 71, 72, 73(4), 73(6) or 74.

PART 10

MISCELLANEOUS

Evidence of exemption under the Act

78.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), the contractor will ensure that it requests, in respect of a person who makes a declaration relating to exemption under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 12ZA(30) to the Act evidence in support of that declaration.

(2) The contractor will ensure that—

- (a) a note of the type of evidence submitted is made; or
- (b) in the case where no evidence is submitted, a note of that fact is made.

(3) Sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) do not apply where the contractor is satisfied that the person in respect of whom the declaration is made is under the age of 18 years.

Clinical governance arrangements

79.—(1) The contractor will comply with such clinical governance arrangements as the Local Health Board may establish in respect of contractors providing services under a contract.

(30) Section 12ZA is inserted into the Act by section 183(2) of the 2003 Act.

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(2) The contractor will nominate a person who manages services under the contract to have responsibility for ensuring compliance with clinical governance arrangements.

(3) In this paragraph, “clinical governance arrangements” means arrangements through which the contractor endeavours to continuously improve the quality of its services and safeguard high standards of care by creating an environment in which clinical excellence can flourish.

Quality assurance system

80.—(1) The contractor will establish, and operate a practice based quality assurance system which is applicable to all the persons specified in sub-paragraph (2).

(2) The specified persons are—

- (a) any dental practitioner who performs services under the contract;
- (b) any other person employed or engaged by the contractor to perform or assist in the performance of services under the contract.

(3) A contractor will ensure that in respect of its practice based quality assurance system, it has nominated a person (who need not be connected with the contractor’s practice) to be responsible for operating that system.

(4) In this paragraph, “a practice based quality assurance system” means one which comprises a system to ensure that—

- (a) effective measures of infection control are used;
- (b) all legal requirements relating to health and safety in the workplace are satisfied;
- (c) all legal requirements relating to radiological protection are satisfied; and
- (d) any requirements of the General Dental Council in respect of the continuing professional development of dental practitioners are satisfied.

Insurance: negligent performance

81.—(1) The contractor will at all times hold adequate insurance against liability arising from negligent performance of clinical services under the contract.

(2) The contractor will not sub-contract its obligations to provide clinical services under the contract unless it has satisfied itself that the sub-contractor holds adequate insurance against liability arising from negligent performance of such services.

(3) In this paragraph—

- (a) “insurance” means a contract of insurance or other arrangement made for the purpose of indemnifying the contractor; and
- (b) a contractor will be regarded as holding insurance if it is held by an employee of its in connection with clinical services which that employee provides under the contract or, as the case may be, sub-contract.

Public liability insurance

82.—(1) The contractor will at all times hold adequate public liability insurance in relation to liabilities to third parties arising under or in connection with the contract which are not covered by the insurance referred to in paragraph 81(1).

(2) In this paragraph, “insurance” has the same meaning as in paragraph 81.

Gifts

83.—(1) The contractor will keep a register of gifts which are given to any of the persons specified in sub-paragraph (2) by or on behalf of—

- (a) a patient;
- (b) a relative of a patient; or
- (c) any person who provides or wishes to provide services to the contractor or its patients in connection with the contract,

and have, in its reasonable opinion, an individual value of more than £100.00.

(2) The persons referred to in sub-paragraph (1) are—

- (a) the contractor;
- (b) where the contract is with two or more individuals practising in partnership, any partner;
- (c) where the contract is with a dental corporation a director, chief executive or secretary of the corporation;
- (d) any person employed by the contractor for the purposes of the contract;
- (e) any dental practitioner engaged by the contractor for the purposes of the contract;
- (f) any spouse or civil partner of a contractor (where the contractor is an individual dental practitioner) or of a person specified in paragraphs (b) to (e); or
- (g) any person whose relationship with the contractor (where the contractor is an individual dental practitioner) or with a person specified in paragraphs (b) to (e) has the characteristics of the relationship between husband and wife or civil partners.

(3) Sub-paragraph (1) does not apply where—

- (a) there are reasonable grounds for believing that the gift is unconnected with services provided or to be provided by the contractor;
- (b) the contractor is not aware of the gift; or
- (c) in a case falling within sub-paragraph (1)(c), the contractor is not aware that the donor wishes to provide services to the contractor.

(4) The contractor will take reasonable steps to ensure that it is informed of gifts which fall within sub-paragraph (1) and which are given to the persons specified in sub-paragraph (2)(b) to (2)(g).

(5) The register referred to in sub-paragraph (1) will include the following information—

- (a) the name of the donor;
- (b) in a case where the donor is a patient, the patient's National Health Service number or, if the number is not known, his or her address;
- (c) in any other case, the address of the donor;
- (d) the nature of the gift;
- (e) the estimated value of the gift; and
- (f) the name of the person or persons who received the gift.

(6) The contractor will make the register available to the Local Health Board on request.

Compliance with legislation and guidance

84. The contractor will—

- (a) comply with all relevant legislation; and
- (b) have regard to all relevant guidance issued by the Local Health Board, or the Assembly.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally made).

Third party rights

85. The contract will not create any right enforceable by any person not a party to it.

Signing of documents

86.—(1) In addition to any other requirement that may relate to the documents specified in sub-paragraph (2), whether in these Regulations or otherwise, the contractor will ensure such documents include—

- (a) the name and clinical profession of the professional who signed the document;
 - (b) the name of the contractor on whose behalf it is signed.
- (2) The reference to documents in sub-paragraph (1) include—
- (a) forms that are required to be completed as a consequence of these Regulations, where such forms require a signature;
 - (b) prescription forms; and
 - (c) any other clinical document.