22nd March 2017

To: All London GDPs, London CCGs, LDC

RE: PAEDIATRIC DENTAL SERVICES (COMMUNITY DENTAL SERVICES; CDS) – NEW ARRANGEMENTS EFFECTIVE FROM 3rd APRIL 2017

As you will be aware Community Dental Services’ (CDS) were procured, London wide, during the summer of 2016 and contracts were subsequently awarded to new providers and will come into effect on Monday 3rd April 2017.

The basis for the procurement has been to deliver a single specification for Paediatric Dental Services across London, thus eliminating the inequities in care provision that currently exist. A key component of the specification is that new providers will act as the ‘gate-keeper’ in respect of all Paediatric referrals, with a few exceptions, sent by GDPs. The rationale for this is to provide the right care to the right patient in the right place. The referral and triage process is detailed below.

PROCESS/ PATIENT PATHWAY

![Table of steps]

- **GDP**
  - Step 1 – All Paediatric referrals to be sent to CDS for initial triage

- **CDS**
  - Step 2 – CDS will treat where appropriate

- **ACUTE**
  - Step 3 – CDS will refer to secondary care when appropriate

HOW TO REFER TO THE SERVICE

Attached to this document is a standard referral form, (please refer to the appendices).

The form should then be sent to the most appropriate CDS central referral office, details of which can be found below and further clinic details in the appendices. The referral will be triaged and the four possible outcomes are:

- a) Appointment in the CDS
- b) Onward referral to the acute secondary care sector
- c) Returned as unsuitable
- d) Returned as lack of information.

METHODS OF REFERRING

All paper or electric based referrals should be sent to the most appropriate CDS address/ map below:
If you wish to make an electronic referral, please ensure referrals are made from an nhs.net account. If you are a GDP and do not have an account then NHS England - London Region can assist you via england.lon-dental@nhs.net. Information governance breaches could potentially result in a contractual breach.

**CAN I REFER DIRECTLY TO PEDIATRIC CONSULTANT LEAD SECONDARY CARE SERVICES?**

Yes, in the case of:

- a) Suspected cancer only
- b) Acute dento-alveolar trauma (48 hours old)
- c) Acute facial sepsis
REFERRAL CRITERIA

The table below describes how the paediatric pathway criteria (descriptors) transfers into the case mix complexities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mild/No complexity</th>
<th>Moderate complexity</th>
<th>Severe/extreme complexity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 1 – Procedure/conditions to be performed or managed by a dentist commensurate with level of competence as defined by the Curriculum for Dental Foundation Training or its equivalent. The emphasis should be on thorough assessment, effective ongoing surveillance, robust preventive care and delivery of relatively straight-forward treatments. Components of level 1 care could also be provided by other members of the dental team such as dental nurses with extended duties, dental hygienists or therapists.</td>
<td>Level 2 – Procedures/conditions to be performed or managed by a dentist with additional experience and competencies but below the level of a professional recognised as a specialist by the GDC.</td>
<td>Level 3a - Care delivered by a consultant in paediatric dentistry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3b - Care delivered by a consultant in paediatric dentistry.</td>
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the cut off age for paediatrics?

A: 15 years and younger, patients between 16-18 year should be referred on the adult SCD referral form.

Q: Can patients self-refer themselves to CDS?

A: No, the referral must be made by a health professional.

Q: Who is carrying out the triaging?

A: The initial triage will be carried out by a member of the clinical team within the relevant CDS provider

Q: When does the 18 week Referral to Treatment (RTT) start?

A: The 18 week RTT clock starts when a referral is received by an acute provider. CDS providers are not subject to national RTT guidance.
Q: What are the discharge processes?

A: Patients with paediatric needs which meet the criteria for moderate complexity or above will remain in either the CDS or secondary care service and are recalled according to NICE guidelines.

Patients without complex paediatric needs are discharged after one course of treatment back to general practice.

Q: Where can I access the service specification?

A: The service specification is hosted on the LDC website and can be accessed via the following link:


Q: Where can I access details of Acute Paediatric Providers in respect of Children who present with the following:

- Acutely swollen face/systemically unwell
- Dental/facial trauma requiring urgent specialist management
- Uncontrolled dental haemorrhage
- Suspected oral malignancy

A: A list of providers is attached as Appendix 3.

Yours Sincerely

Jeremy Wallman
NHS England

cc All London acute dental providers
     All London community dental providers

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Referral acceptance guidance
Appendix 2: Paediatric Referral form
Appendix 3: Acute Paediatric Providers (London only)