

Contract Change F.A.Qs.

See published [guidance](#) for more information.

Unscheduled Dental Care (UDC):

How much is the minimum threshold of unscheduled dental care?

Contract variations will be issued for 8.2% of contract value to support unscheduled dental care.

Will I still receive 1.2 UDAs for an UDC claim?

No, the 1.2 UDA fee is replaced by a £75 UDA offset – composed of:

1. a £15 fixed payment received monthly
2. and £60 activity payment when the UDC course of treatment is submitted.

Is the number of UDC courses of treatment specified in the contract variation (8.2%) the maximum number of courses of UDC that a practice can provide?

No, this is a minimum threshold. Where practices deliver more UDC courses than this each UDC course of care will be paid at a flat fee of £75 as a UDA credit.

What if my practice cannot deliver the minimum threshold of UDC?

The ICB may ask the practice to work with the NHS111 or a local Dental Helpline to increase the UDC caseload or in exceptional circumstances where a practice can evidence a local lack of patient UDC need, the ICB may exchange a level of UDC funding for general care.

How does the UDC contract change affect the NHS ICB additional funded urgent dental care programme?

There are no significant changes planned, so this non-core contract programme is extended in the same format.

Can my practice work with NHS111 or a local Dental Helpline to boost UDC cases of care?

Yes, especially where NHS111 dental call volumes are high in your locality. If you would like to work with NHS111 or a local Dental Helpline, email your commissioning team and ask the question.

Is there any published clinical guidance on unscheduled dental care?

Yes, published advice can be found [here](#).

Fluoride varnish treatment by dental nurses

What are the criteria I need to observe with regard to dental nurse delivered fluoride varnish?

Dental nurses must:

- be registered with the General Dental Council (GDC).
- be trained and competent in fluoride varnish application.
- have adequate indemnity arrangements in place.
- have a personal identification number (PIN) and be added to the list of clinicians employed on the contract.

Does this contract change apply to all children?

Dental Nurse delivered fluoride varnish applies to children 16yrs and under.

How do Practices manage this contract change?

- Following the completion of an initial assessment and examination within a banded course of treatment, the dentist, hygienist or therapist is responsible for establishing a schedule for fluoride varnish application through a care plan.
- This care plan should specify regular intervals for treatment, ensuring continuity in preventative oral care for children.
- Once the care plan has been created, and a dental prescriber in the Dental Practice has issued a prescription, the dental nurse is authorised to administer fluoride varnish in accordance with the plan.
- The dental nurse may carry out these applications independently, without requiring additional examinations or assessments for each fluoride varnish application set out in the plan.

Does the Dental Nurse require a prescription?

Clinicians should take into account the [guidance](#) on the validity of a Patient Specific Direction when considering the start and finish date of the direction.

How are the UDAs for dental nurse fluoride varnish credited?

The Band 1 (standalone fluoride varnish) course of treatment will earn 0.5 UDAs and be included in pay schedules for the Dental Contractor and dental nurse, identified as 'nurse applied fluoride varnish'.

However, if standalone fluoride varnish treatment is delivered within 3 months of, a banded course of treatment, it will count as part of that banded course of treatment, and the extra 0.5 UDAs will not apply, except where it is an Urgent Course of Treatment. The same applies if a Band 1 (standalone fluoride varnish) claim is made within 3 months of each other. There is no restriction on submitting a claim for a banded course of treatment after a Band 1 (standalone fluoride varnish) has been claimed.

Is there any guidance on adding a dental nurse to the contract?

<https://faq.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/knowledgebase/article/KA-28923/en-us>

<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2026-02/Provider%20guidance%20on%20how%20to%20create%20DCP%20Clinician%20and%20add%20them%20to%20a%20contract%202026%20%28England%29.pdf>

What level of clinical chairside support will be required for dental nurses delivering this contract change?

- dental nurses can provide FV without support.
- It is likely that 3–16-year-olds will have accompanying carers.
- Where additional support is required, this can be arranged within the clinical team.
- It would not be appropriate for a dental nurse to be the only member of the dental team to be working in the practice.

Fissure Sealants

What is the basis for patient selection for fissure sealants within this contract change?

Delivering better oral health Delivering better oral health recommends:

- the use of *resin sealants* on permanent molar teeth
- aged 7 years to 18
- where there is a *higher risk of dental caries*.