

## Commissioning Statement

<b>Treatment</b>	Medicines for dental conditions on FP10 prescription.
<b>For the treatment of</b>	Dental conditions
<b>Commissioning position</b>	<p>Calderdale CCG <b>does not</b> routinely commission or fund medicines for dental conditions on GP FP10 prescription <b>except</b> in the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where the GP is the responsible clinician for assessing and monitoring the effectiveness of treatment.</li> <li>• For emergency treatment of patients.</li> <li>• After head and neck cancer treatment on the recommendation of a Head and Neck or Restorative Dental Consultant.</li> </ul> <p>It is not clinically appropriate for medicines for dental conditions to be supplied via the GP prescription route when patients have been assessed by a dentist and treatment initiated.</p> <p>Some dental medicines require ongoing monitoring and clinical assessment by the dentist, which is in keeping with the dentist retaining the responsibility for prescribing.</p>
<b>Date effective from</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2015
<b>Policy to be reviewed by</b>	May 2018 (To be reviewed earlier if NICE issues guidance at an earlier date)
<b>Background information</b>	<p>Prescribing medicines is an integral aspect of many dental treatment plans. UK prescribing data shows that dental products are sometimes prescribed by GPs, and anecdotally GPs report receiving requests from dentists and patients to prescribe acute or repeat medicines for dental conditions. Examples include the prescribing of high-strength prescription-only fluoride toothpastes (Duraphat®), oral ulcer healing preparations, and analgesics.</p> <p>Nationally almost £5.8 million was spent on some dental products (toothpastes, mouthwashes, fluoride preparations, ulcer healing treatments etc.) over the course of a year (ePACT, August to October2014).</p>

	<p>Locally, (across Calderdale, Greater Huddersfield, North Kirklees and Wakefield), this cost was almost £126k.</p>
<p><b>Summary of evidence / rationale</b></p>	<p>GPs are responsible for all prescribing decisions they make and for any consequent monitoring that is needed as a result of the prescription given.</p> <p>Dentists are responsible for assessing their patient's condition and prescribing within their competence. If a dentist deems that a medicine is needed to treat their patient's dental condition, and they are able to prescribe or direct the patient to that medicine via an appropriate route (see below) then it is reasonable to expect the dentist to do so, rather than involve the GP.</p> <p><b>Obtaining medicines for dental conditions</b></p> <p>There are various routes by which a dentist can provide patients with, or direct them to appropriate medicines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dentists can issue NHS prescriptions for medicines from the Dental Practitioners' Formulary for treatment provided within an NHS contract.</li> <li>• Dentists can issue private prescriptions.</li> <li>• In some circumstances, dentists are also able to sell medicines directly to patients.</li> <li>• Dentists, like other healthcare professionals, are also able to signpost patients to appropriate forms of self-care, e.g. direct them to a community pharmacy to purchase an over the counter analgesic</li> </ul> <p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>Dentists are usually best placed to assess dental problems, and prescribe and monitor medicines for them. Involving GPs in prescribing medicines for dental conditions is usually unnecessary, and uses valuable appointment/GP time which could be better utilised. Getting GPs to prescribe medicines for dental conditions means that the GP is responsible for both the prescribing and any consequent monitoring required, for which they may not be the most appropriate clinical practitioner.</p>
<p><b>Contact for this policy</b></p>	<p><b>North Kirklees CCG / Gt Huddersfield CCG:</b> Eric Power  <b>Wakefield CCG:</b> Joanne Fitzpatrick  <b>Calderdale CCG:</b> Helen Foster</p>

**References:**

PrescQIPP Bulletin 95 – Dental Products on FP10. Accessed at:

<http://www.prescqipp.info/-dental-products-on-fp10/finish/309-dental-products-on-fp10-drop-list/1736-bulletin-95-dental-products-on-fp10-drop-list>

PrescQIPP Dental Products Data Pack. Accessed at:

<http://www.prescqipp.info/-dental-products-on-fp10/finish/309-dental-products-on-fp10-drop-list/1737-dental-products-on-fp10-drop-list-data-pack>