

The Future of Dentistry in Northern Ireland

A Survey of All Dental Practitioners



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

About You

Q1. Please indicate which category best describes your employment situation: *TICK ONE BOX ONLY*

- Practice owner
- Associate dentist
- Assistant dentist
- Vocational trainee ⇨ *Go to Q3.*

Q2. Excluding time spent as a vocational trainee, please indicate when you began working as a GDP:

- 2000-04
- 1990-99
- 1980-89
- 1970-79
- 1960-69
- Before 1960

Q3. Please state your sex:

- Male
- Female

Q4. Please indicate which age group you fall into:

- | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| < 30 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 30-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 35-39 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 40-44 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 45-49 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 50-54 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 55-59 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 60+ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q5. Which Health and Social Services Board area do you practice in? If more than one, please indicate your main Board area. *TICK ONE BOX ONLY*

- Eastern
- Southern
- Northern
- Western

Q6. Thinking about your work in dental practice in the last year, can you please estimate the average number of sessions* you worked per week:

..... sessions

* A session is taken to mean a morning or afternoon block of work, lasting 3½ hours

Q7. Thinking about all* the patients you have seen in the last year, can you please estimate the proportion of your time spent seeing:

Health Service patients %

Private patients %

(Total should sum to 100%)

* Should also include time spent seeing children

Q8. Thinking about five years from now and assuming the current system is unchanged, in terms of seeing patients, what proportion of your time do you think you would spend seeing:

Health Service patients %

Private patients %

(Total should sum to 100%)

Current and Future Systems

Q9. What is the most important issue facing you as a GDP today? TICK ONE BOX ONLY

- Limited clinical freedom¹
- Extent of practice allowances²
- The current remuneration system³
- Maintaining quality of treatment
- Career progression
- Pay levels
- Burden of legislation
- Other Please state

.....
.....

¹Restricted choice in treatment options

²Money given directly to dental practices for quality improvement initiatives, reimbursement of waste disposal costs etc

³Method by which dentists earnings are determined, e.g. item of service and capitation

Q10. As it currently stands, how satisfied are you with General Practice Dentistry in NI? TICK ONE BOX ONLY

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Don't know

Q11. Within General Practice Dentistry do you believe dentists have a role in helping prevent oral disease?

- Yes ⇨ Go to Q12.
- No ⇨ Go to Q13.

Q12. What are the barriers to effective prevention of oral disease in General Practice Dentistry today? TICK ALL THAT APPLY

- No barriers
- A lack of training in preventative dentistry
- The current remuneration system
- Poor attendance levels for those at greatest risk
- Poor compliance levels for those at greatest risk
- Other *Please state*

.....

Q13. Thinking about the current system and also the *ideal system*, what proportion of your time would be spent on the following tasks:

	In the current system	In the <i>ideal system</i>
Examination and diagnosis % %
Treatment % %
Prevention % %
Paperwork/administration % %

(Totals should sum to 100%)

Q14. Under any new system, who should undertake one-to-one prevention (e.g. fissure sealants, oral health education)? TICK ALL THAT APPLY

- General dental practitioners
- Community dentists
- Hygienists/therapists in the General Dental Service
- Hygienists/therapists in the Community Dental Service
- Other *Please state*

Q15. In the future do you think that the General Dental Service (GDS) should have a role in the following:

- | | Yes | No |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| School dental screening | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dental surveys | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Smoking cessation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q16. In any new primary dental care system implemented in NI, what level of importance should be attached to each of the following items?

	Very important	Important	Low importance
Improving oral health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Greater integration within Health Service family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ability to adjust to local needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduced workload for dentists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased pay for dentists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patient access to Health Service dentistry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Simplified remuneration system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emphasis on treatment quality rather than quantity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Higher proportion of income from practice allowances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q17. In the future, monitoring arrangements should include: TICK ALL THAT APPLY

- Quality of last course of treatment
- Securing dental fitness
- Suitability of treatment
- Financial impropriety
- Other *Please state*

Range and Availability of Services

Q18. Under any new arrangements who do you think should be able to receive health service dental care from the GDS? TICK ALL THAT APPLY

- Everyone
- Children (<18 years)
- Anyone in full-time education
- Adults receiving qualifying benefit*
- The elderly (65+ years)
- Those with special needs+
- Expectant/nursing mothers
- Other *Please state*

.....
.....

* E.g. Jobseekers Allowance, Income Support etc.
+Those with physical, sensory or learning disability

Q19. Should the range of treatments available under the GDS be revised?

- Yes ⇨ Go to Q20.
- No ⇨ Go to Q22.

Q20. What, if anything, should be removed from the range of treatments currently available?

.....
.....

Q21. What, if anything, should be added to the range of treatments currently available?

.....
.....

Premises and Practice Arrangements

Q22. Thinking about the GDS, would you prefer to practice from privately owned premises or Health Service owned premises?

- Private premises
Health Service premises

Q23. Please indicate the type of practice you work in:

- Single-handed
Multiple-surgery

Q24. Please indicate the type of practice you would prefer to work in:

- Single-handed
Multiple-surgery

Q25. To ensure equitable access to the GDS, should HSS boards have some control over where privately owned dental practices are sited?

- Yes
No

Human Resources and Staff Development

Q26. Do you currently employ a hygienist or therapist?

- Yes ⇨ Go to Q27.
No ⇨ Go to Q28.

Q27. Would you consider either increasing their hours of work or employing an additional hygienist/therapist?

- Yes
No

NOW GO TO Q29.

Q28. Would you consider employing a hygienist or therapist?

- Yes
No

Q29. Please rate the support you receive for Continuing Professional Development for:

	You	Your staff
Very good	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q30. Please state whether postgraduate courses currently provided in NI are sufficient to meet your professional development needs:

- Completely
- Mostly
- Partially
- Not at all

Remuneration

Q31. In any new dental system implemented in NI, contracts should be arranged between the commissioner of services (currently the HSS Boards) and: *TICK ONE BOX ONLY*

- The dental practice
- Each individual dentist

Q32. Please select from the list below your preferred method(s) of remuneration. If you would prefer a single method, tick one box only. If you would prefer a combination, tick up to a maximum of two:

- Salary
- Item of service
- Sessional payment
- Block payment*
- Capitation

* A dentist or practice is given an annual lump sum to provide dental care for a defined payment.

Q33. Should patient contributions be limited to a small number of fixed charges dependent on the extent of treatment?

- Yes
- No

