EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

THE GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2017

SR 2017 No. 10

1. Introduction

1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Health to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under Article 55, 61(1), (2) and (2AA), 106 and 107(6) of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

2.1. These amendments revise terminology in relation to post graduate dental training (previously referred to as "vocational training" now "Dental Foundation training"); recognise that, Dental Foundation training must be "satisfactorily completed"; update the aims and objectives of postgraduate training to be consistent with parallel GB legislation; update certain outdated legislative references and use gender neutral terminology.

3. Background

3.1. These Regulations amend the General Dental Services Regulations (NI) 1993 which deal with the arrangements for the provision of Health Service (HS) dental services in Northern Ireland. This includes the details dentists must provide when seeking to join the list of dentists who undertake to provide HS dental services. This is known as the Dental List by which they are assigned a DS (dental surgeon) number. In order to join the Dental list a dentist must ordinarily provide their vocational training number.

3.2. Vocational Training (now "Dental foundation training") is a period of at least one year's full time employment (or part-time equivilant) during which a dental graduate is employed by an approved dental trainer to provide a wide range of dental care and treatment. During this period the dental graduate completes a post registration day-release course of at least one year (or part-time equivilant) to achieve a certificate to enable them to have a DS (Dental Surgeon) number with the Regional Health and Social Care Board to practice in their own right. Training is currently facilitated for Northern Ireland by the NI Medical and Dental and Training Agency (NIMDTA).

3.3. The term "vocational" has now been replaced by "Dental Foundation", similar to the medical model, and the General Dental Services Regulations (NI) 1993 need amended to reflect this wording. Additionally, we wish to amend certain wording to ensure that future Dental Foundation training is completed "satisfactorily" to fit with a new process of assessment of trainees, and that the various aims and objectives of Dental Foundation

training are slightly reworded. These amendments reflect terminology now used in GB legislation. Other general housekeeping amendments (updated legislative references and gender neutral drafting) are also required. The term "vocational" is retained as it will still be appropriate to those dentists who trained under "vocational training".

4. Consultation

4.1. A 4 week targeted consultation has been conducted with key stakeholders: the UK Committee of Postgraduate Dental Deans and Directors (COPDEND), the British Dental Association, the Regional Health and Social Care Board and the NIMDTA. A copy of the consultation was also available on the Departmental website. All four bodies responded. No objections were raised to the proposed revisions.

5. Equality Impact

5.1. This Rule has also been considered under section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and complies fully with this legislation, with no adverse impact on any of the section 75 groups.

6. Regulatory Impact

6.1. It is not envisaged that there would be an adverse impact to business, charities, social economy and the voluntary sector as a result of these Regulations.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. There are no financial implications.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

8.1. These regulations are considered compatible with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

9. EU Implications

9.1. Not applicable.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. These Regulations reflect terminology now used in GB legislation.

11. Additional Information

11.1. Not applicable.