Thinking of registering after Brexit?

What does Brexit mean for me?

Already Registered before Brexit?

I hold a UK qualification and I am thinking of moving to Ireland

I hold an Irish Qualification and I am thinking of practicing in the United Kingdom

I hold a UK qualification and I am currently registered with the Dental Council before Brexit.

In this issue

Med 2 Forms
Minnata
Practitioner Health Matters Programme
What does Brexit mean?
Declaring Disciplinary Sanction
Prescription of Antibiotics
Regulation of Medical Exposures to Ionising Radiation
News in Brief
Dental Health Foundation

The Dental Health Foundation (DHF) established in 1977, is an independent charitable trust, governed by a Declaration of Trust. The DHF in partnership with the Department of Health and Children and the Health Service Executive has acted as a central facilitator and strategist in placing oral health issues and solutions on the national health agenda. It has also become a valuable resource within the healthcare sector for advice and tools to promote best oral health practices.

Dental Council welcomes publication of Smile agus Sláinte

The Minister for Health, Mr Simon Harris TD and the Minister for Social Protection, Ms Regina Doherty launched the long-awaited national oral health policy called ‘Smile agus Sláinte’ on the 3 April in Dublin Dental University Hospital. The policy is the first national policy for 25 years and we welcome its publication.

The policy is proposing the future public dental service will be delivered through a range of healthcare packages targeted at different segments of the population. There are eight what are called preventative oral healthcare packages for all children under the age of 16. The oral healthcare packages for adults will only be available to medical card holders. The policy aims to put the local general practice dentist at the centre of this community-based initiative.

The Dental Council welcomes the publication of the policy and especially the proposal to prioritise oral health messages with different organisations, most recently including the Irish Men’s Shed Association, The National Children’s Network, Diabetes Ireland and Mental Health Ireland.

The Specialist Certificate in Health Promotion (Oral Health) developed in conjunction with NUIG and the HSE, provides health professionals with education and training in oral health promotion. This is now approved for non-core CPD points by the Dental Council.

The Dental Council welcomes publication of Smile agus Sláinte

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Empowering people and Advocacy and Collaboration also deliver significant value in terms of focused health promotion and excellent value for money.

We are an organisation inspired by our Vision, driven by our Mission and underpinned by our Values. We are strongly committed to our work programme. We look forward to working with all our stakeholders to ensure that oral health is included in an integral part of overall health and wellbeing.

The Dental Council intends that the plan will be supported by changes in how undergraduate dental education is delivered and organised, and with a revised Dentists Act.

The Dental Council welcomes the publication of the policy and especially the proposal to prioritise the new Dental Bill. This legislation has been long-promised and it will hopefully provide for the appropriate measures needed to effectively regulate a profession that has changed profoundly since the last Act was introduced in 1985.

The implementation of the policy is likely to have a significant impact on the scope of practice of all members of the dental team. Two of the priority issues which it is planned to address in the first three years are to reassess the scopes of practice for auxiliary dental workers to enable direct access where appropriate and to review the training and scopes of practice of dental technicians and clinical dental technicians.

The policy and the associated appendices can be downloaded from the Department of Health website: https://health.gov.ie/blog/publications/smile-agus-slainte-national-oral-health-policy/
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Bret will have no effect on your registration, and you will continue to be registered.

I hold an Irish qualification and I am registered with the GDC before Brexit

Thinking of registering after Brexit?

I hold a UK qualification and I am thinking of moving to Ireland

Even though you are no longer entitled to avail of the provisions of the Professional Qualifications Directive, the Dental Council will continue to assume your qualifications are equivalent to UK standards immediately after Brexit. The decision will be reviewed by the Dental Council in late 2020.

I hold an Irish qualification and I am thinking of practicing in the United Kingdom

The Dental Council understands that Brexit will not impact your registration in the United Kingdom.

The threat of a ‘No Deal’ Brexit remains a real prospect

The threat of a ‘No Deal’ Brexit remains a real prospect as the Parliament in the United Kingdom (UK) continues to try to find an agreed way to implement the referendum decision to leave the European Union (EU). There is a long and collegial history between the dental profession in Ireland and the United Kingdom, which predates the establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922, and the standards of practice and education in both countries have always remained similar. The United Kingdom’s exit from the European Union will certainly impact on this close relationship.

The Dental Council will continue to be obliged to operate under the provisions of the EU’s Professional Qualifications Directive after Brexit but the United Kingdom will become a third country, that is a country outside of the EU’s Single Market. From a regulatory perspective, the main difference between a No Deal Brexit and an orderly Brexit – that is an exit with a transition agreement – is the date that the exit takes effect.

There are many registrants in Ireland holding UK qualifications and there are many holders of Irish qualifications practicing in the UK. In the future, dentists from both countries may still wish to cross the Irish Sea to practice. Brexit could also potentially impact those already enrolled as students on dental programmes. The Dental Council’s focus is to minimise the disruption caused by Brexit and to ensure that the historically close links between Ireland and the United Kingdom will continue after the UK leaves the EU.

Additionally the Irish Government has published a significant amount of guidance on the potential impact of Brexit on the Ireland generally and this can be viewed on www.gov.ie/brexit
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Your registration will continue to be valid for the next 5 years.

Thinking of registering after Brexit?

I hold a UK qualification and I am thinking of moving to Ireland

Even though you are no longer entitled to avail of the provisions of the Professional Qualifications Directive, the Dental Council will continue to assume your qualifications meet the EU minimum standards. This will apply to any person obtaining a UK qualification by the 30 June 2021. This means we will process your application similarly to how we process applications from holders of dental qualifications from the other 27 EU member states. You will be required to sit our examination for Non-EEA Qualified Dentists. This decision will be reviewed by the Dental Council in late 2020.

I hold an Irish qualification and I am thinking of practicing in the United Kingdom

The Dental Council understands that Brexit will not impact your registration in the United Kingdom.
Regulation of Medical Exposures to Ionising Radiation

Changes to the regulation of medical exposure to ionising radiation have significant implications for dentists. With HIQA now responsible for regulation in this area, dentists need to be aware of how these regulatory changes affect them.

In the new regulations, an ‘undertaking’ is the responsible person or body who provides or engages others to carry out a medical radiological procedure. Each undertaking should declare its existence to HIQA by 8 April 2019. If you are an undertaking as described above and have not declared, please contact HIQA immediately.

As part of the regulation process, HIQA will examine the way in which patients are exposed to ionising radiation. Factors that will be considered include how equipment is tested, the appropriateness of the referral, the amount of radiation given to a patient during a procedure and the record of doses given. Furthermore, notifications of radiation incidents above a certain threshold, which were previously sent to the HIQA Medical Radiation Exposure Unit (MERU), must now be sent to HIQA.

We published guidance documents on the responsibilities of undertakings and on making notifications to HIQA in January. More recently, we published two further documents that explain further how regulation will take place in practice. These documents are a judgment framework on which compliance against the regulations is measured and general guidance to the assessment of the regulations. All the documents are available at www.hiqa.ie.

To help dentists and other groups understand the implications of these regulatory changes, we are running a series of stakeholder roadshows around the country in June 2019. These events will explain HIQA’s role in the regulation of ionising radiation and the implications for dentists. To find out more about the roadshows, email radiationprotection@hiqa.ie. HIQA realises that these are significant changes for dentists, and we are keen to work with you to ensure that the regulation of medical exposure to ionising radiation is effectively and efficiently implemented. Ultimately, our goal is to drive safer, better care for patients.

John Tuffy, Regional Manager for Ionising Radiation, HIQA

Declaring Disciplinary Sanction

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- Grant the Dental Council a discretionary power to publish information about sanctions it is made aware of from overseas if it considers it is in the public interest to do so
- Allow the Dental Council to establish rules for dentists restoring their name to the register in circumstances where the person has been out of practice

The new requirement to declare sanctions is likely to have a major impact on the work of the Dental Council. We are aware of approximately thirty dentists who either were or are practicing in Ireland who have been sanctioned overseas. The Council at present is effectively powerless to consider these cases.

Prescription of antibiotics

A recent review by the HSE of the prescription claims by dentists under the Dental Treatment Service Scheme (DTSS) has shown there is a considerable variation in claims. The issue of antimicrobial resistance has been well publicised and it is posing an increasing and significant risk to public health.

The HSE was concerned that in some cases antibiotics are being routinely prescribed by dentists with an inadequate clinical justification. The Dental Council has been informed that the HSE intends to write to all DTSS contractors shortly with some specific guidance on this issue. The HSE has published a number of informative documents on antimicrobial stewardship on its website and HIQA has published national standards for infection prevention and control in the community-based health service that are part of a strategy to reduce the need to prescribe antibiotics.

The HSE has published a number of documents for dentistry specifically. This is an important issue and we would ask that dentists familiarise themselves with this guidance and reflect on how this might be incorporated into your clinical practice.

https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/22/31/antibiotics-prescribing-conditions-and-treatments/dental/dental-conditions.html

Recent changes in Council

The Council would like to welcome Dr Nam Galvin and Dr Shona Leydon to Dental Council.

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Social Media

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Matters Programme

By July 1st, 2019, the Member States shall set out a national plan on the measures they intend to implement to phase down the use of dental amalgam.

Recent changes

The below article was kindly submitted by Mr John Tuffy from HIQA to explain the recent Ionising Radiation regulations.


Recent publication

Antibiotics have been identified by the HSE as a priority area to address antimicrobial resistance. Antibiotics are an essential component of healthcare, but overuse and misuse of antibiotics can lead to antimicrobial resistance. The HSE has published a number of informative documents on antimicrobial stewardship on its website and HIQA has published national standards for infection prevention and control in the community-based health service that are part of a strategy to reduce the need to prescribe antibiotics.

The HSE has published a number of documents for dentistry specifically. This is an important issue and we would ask that dentists familiarise themselves with this guidance and reflect on how this might be incorporated into your clinical practice.


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The new Regulated Professionals (Health and Social Care) Bill has been introduced in the Oireachtas as part of the basket of ‘Brexit’ related legislation that Ireland needs to pass arising from the United Kingdom’s imminent departure from the European Union. This Bill has its origins in the 2013 revision to the European Union’s Professional Qualifications Directive, which sets out how member states will recognise qualifications obtained elsewhere in the European Union. This Bill will, when enacted, result in fundamental changes to the Dental Council’s registration and fitness to practise powers. This Bill will immediately and especially affect any dentist who has been sanctioned in another country or by another regulatory body (even if it was by a non-healthcare regulatory body). When enacted and commenced, the Bill will:

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The new requirement to declare sanctions is likely to have a major impact on the work of the Dental Council. We are aware of approximately thirty dentists who either were or are practicing in Ireland who have been sanctioned overseas. The Council at present is effectively powerless to consider these cases.

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Regulation of Medical Exposures to Ionising Radiation

Changes to the regulation of medical exposure to ionising radiation have significant implications for dentists. With the new requirement to disclose sanctions, it is likely to have a major impact on the work of practicing dentists in Ireland. The Council at present is effectively powerless to consider these cases.

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Member

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Dentists should note that the revised Form Med from the Revenue Commissioners has been amended to include a request for dentists to insert their Dental Council registration number on the form given to patients. The information is required by the Revenue Commissioners to assist them validate that the work was carried out by a registered dentist. Your registration number will be at the bottom of the form in future.

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**Renewal/Late Fees**

The dentist and dental specialist retention fees were due on 31 January 2019. Unfortunately, a significant number have still not paid or, for those not practising, submitted a letter of resignation. The Dental Council has decided to erase these names from the Register and it is now seeking to have this decision confirmed by the High Court. Any dentist who wishes to restore their name to the Register after the matter is confirmed by the High Court will be obliged to pay all the outstanding fees, including the late fee and costs.

**Practitioner Health Matters Programme**

While we have mentioned this programme in previous publications, we think it is worth reminding dental professionals of this service. The Practitioner Health Matters Programme (PfHP) in Ireland offers a strictly confidential service to doctors, dentists and other health professionals. They have a confidential telephone line and email contact point for an expert clinical advice service. They welcome contact from any individual whether you are the person in need of help, a family member, a colleague or a friend.

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**Med 2 Forms**

Dentists should note that the revised Form Med from the Revenue Commissioners has been amended to include a request for dentists to insert their Dental Council registration number on the form given to patients. The information is required by the Revenue Commissioners to assist them validate that the work was carried out by a registered dentist. Your registration number may be amended. Changes and can be found on your registration certificate.
The below article was kindly submitted by Mr John Tuffy from HIQA to explain the recent Ionising Regulation changes.

**Regulation of Medical Exposures to Ionising Radiation**

Changes to the regulation of medical exposure to ionising radiation have significant implications for dentists. With HIQA now responsible for regulation in this area, dentists need to be aware of how these regulatory changes affect them.

In the new regulations, an ‘undertaking’ is the responsible person or body who provides or engages others to carry out a medical radiological procedure. Each undertaking should declare their existence to HIQA by 8 April 2019. If you are an undertaking as described above and have not declared, please contact HIQA immediately.

As part of the regulation process, HIQA will examine the way in which patients are exposed to ionising radiation. Factors that will be considered include how equipment is tested, the appropriateness of the referral, the amount of radiation given to a patient during a procedure and the record of doses given. Furthermore, notifications of radiation incidents above a certain threshold, which were previously sent to the HSE Medical Exposure Radiation Unit (MERU), must now be sent to HIQA.

We published guidance documents on the responsibilities of undertakings and on making notifications to HIQA in January. More recently, we published two further documents that explain further how regulation will take place in practice. These documents are a judgment framework on which compliance against the regulations is measured and general guidance to the assessment of the regulations. All the documents are available at www.hiqa.ie.

To help dentists and other groups understand the implications of these regulatory changes, we are running a series of stakeholder roadshows around the country in June 2019. These events will explain HIQA’s role in the regulation of ionising radiation and the implications for dentists. To find out more about the roadshow, email roadshows@hiqa.ie. HIQA realises that these are significant changes for dentists, and we are keen to work with you to ensure that the regulation of medical exposure to ionising radiation is effectively and efficiently implemented. Ultimately, our goal is to drive better, safer care for patients.

John Tuffy, Regional Manager for Ionising Radiation, HIQA

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**Prescription of antibiotics**

A recent review by the HSE of the prescription claims by dentists under the Dental Treatment Service Scheme (DTSS) has shown there is a considerable variation in claims. The issue of antimicrobial resistance has been well publicised and it is posing an increasing and significant risk to public health.

The HSE is concerned that in some cases antibiotics are being routinely prescribed by dentists with inadequate clinical justification. The Dental Council has been informed that the HSE intends to write to all DTSS contractors shortly with some specific guidance on this issue. The HSE has published a number of informative documents on antimicrobial stewardship on its website and HIQA has published national standards for infection prevention and control in the community-based health service that are part of a strategy to reduce the need to prescribe antibiotics. The HSE has published a number of documents for dentistry specifically. This is an important issue and we would ask that dentists familiarise themselves with this guidance and reflect on how this might be incorporated into your clinical practice.

https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/9/antibiotics-prescribing-conditions-and-treatments/dental/dental-conditions.html


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**Declaring Disciplinary Sanction**

The new Regulated Professionals (Health and Social Care) Bill has been introduced in the Oireachtas as part of the basket of ‘Brexit’ related legislation that Ireland needs to pass arising from the United Kingdom’s imminent departure from the European Union. This Bill has its origins in the 2013 revision to the European Union’s Professional Qualifications Directive, which sets out how member states will recognise qualifications obtained elsewhere in the European Union.

This Bill will, when enacted, result in fundamental changes to the Dental Council’s registration and fitness to practise powers. This Bill will immediately and especially affect any dentist who has been sanctioned in another country or by another regulatory body (even if in Ireland, or abroad, to declare this to the Dental Council when renewing their registration.

The failure to declare a sanction will itself become grounds for deciding to hold a Fitness to Practise Inquiry

- Allow the Dental Council sanction dentists who have been subject to disciplinary sanction overseas
- Allow the Dental Council to publish details of all sanctions, including sanctions for health-related matters
- Split the registration process into two parts: firstly, to recognise a qualification and secondly, to register. The Dental Council may charge for each part
- Grant the Dental Council a discretionary power to publish information about sanctions it is made aware of from overseas if it considers it is in the public interest to do so
- Allow the Dental Council to establish rules for dentists restoring their name to the register in circumstances in which the person has been out of practice

The new requirement to disclose sanctions is likely to have a major impact on the work of the Dental Council. We are aware of approximately thirty dentists who either were or are practicing in Ireland who have been sanctioned overseas. The Council at present is effectively powerless to consider these cases.
Good oral health is included as an essential part of overall health and wellbeing. Teeth and gums are important parts of your body. Good oral health is vital to the general health of everyone in Ireland. We have developed partnerships and collaborations and have taken the lead on promoting positive oral and general health messages with different organisations, most recently including the Irish Men’s Shed Association, The National Children’s Network, Diabetes Ireland and Mental Health Ireland.

The Specialist Certificate in Health Promotion (Oral Health) developed in conjunction with NUI Galway and the HSE provides health professionals with education and training in oral health promotion. This is now approved for non-core CPD points by the Dental Council.

Our four strategic objectives; Support to the Department of Health and Children, NUIG and the HSE, provides health messages with different organisations, most recently including the Irish Men’s Shed Association, The National Children’s Network, Diabetes Ireland and Mental Health Ireland.

The introduction of the new Dental Council Act 2017 brings with it significant changes to the regulation of the dental profession. The key objectives of the Act are to improve public protection, streamline the current regulatory framework and provide a new statutory basis for dental regulation.

The Dental Council is an independent statutory body established by an Act of the Oireachtas. It is comprised of 11 members – 10 are dental professionals and 1 is a layperson.

The Dental Council’s vision is to protect the health and welfare of the public by regulating the dental profession and ensuring that persons who provide dental services are competent and fit to do so.

This vision is achieved by setting standards and ensuring the maintenance of standards for the dental profession. The Council ensures that the public can access dental care and that standards are maintained by an appropriate and effective regulatory framework.

In order to achieve this, the Dental Council’s mission is to be an independent, professional and transparent body with a strong commitment to the public interest.

The Council is driven by our Mission and underpinned by our Policies and Values and we are strongly committed to our Mission and Values.

The Council operates under a Code of Conduct which sets out the standards of conduct and ethical behaviour expected of dental professionals.

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