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Department of
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Dear Colleague

Adoption of SDCEP's August 2015 guidance 'Management of Dental Patients Taking Anticoagulants or Antiplatelet Drugs'

SDCEP's August 2015 guidance 'Management of Dental Patients Taking Anticoagulants or Antiplatelet Drugs' has now been adopted for use in Northern Ireland. This SDCEP guidance documentation is available electronically via its website www.sdcep.org.uk and includes full guidance, a quick reference guide, and some supporting documents. We trust you will find this guidance to be helpful and will utilise it as a valuable aid to enhance patient care. Again, as per previous correspondence in relation to SDCEP guidance endorsed here, please be aware that as this is primarily Scottish guidance some of the material, processes, organisations etc. described in the suite of documentation may not be applicable here.

The adoption of this guidance has been through a slightly different process than when the Department formally endorsed 'Drug Prescribing for Dentistry – Dental Clinical Guidance 3rd Edition' in 2016, and, earlier this year, 'Oral Health Management of Patients at Risk of Medication-related Osteonecrosis of the Jaw (2017)'. This is because SDCEP was neither developing, nor reviewing, guidance on this particular subject. Instead, the main driver was an identified need for up-to-date guidance for the profession in the north of Ireland because some of the internet links

to secondary information resources previously highlighted through the HSCB's 'Prescribing Matters for Dental Practitioners' newsletter were now no longer available, and also the increasing use of Novel Oral Anticoagulants.

It was known that a relatively recently published SDCEP guidance resource was already available and might be suitable. An initial assessment found that this SDCEP guidance did appear to be generally favourable for adoption and an engagement process led by the HSCB Pharmacy team was commenced within HSCTs. The comments received were subsequently reviewed by the HSCB Prescribing Guidance Editorial Group, with the input of a consultant haematologist, and the arising recommendation was to endorse this SDCEP guideline here. We are very grateful to HSCB pharmacy colleagues who worked on the engagement and review stages, and to wider HSCT colleagues who also made valuable contributions to the process.

Although this route of endorsement has been different we are still grateful to SDCEP for giving us permission to refer dental teams to this resource; and welcome the opportunity for dentists to be able to use this user-friendly, evidence-based guidance as an important adjunct to support best patient care.

Yours sincerely



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