

5 November 2024

NHS Dental Teams

Waste Management

The purpose of this letter is to remind dental practices of their responsibilities in relation to waste management.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) regulates waste management and makes it clear that the responsibility for waste management lies with the waste producer. To demonstrate that you comply with the appropriate waste management guidance and regulation you are required to conduct a Pre-Acceptance Audit (PAA) which will have been sent to you by your health board's waste management team (WMT). Further information and background was provided within this letter from Paul Cushley [Urgent Information – Waste Audits – Scottish Dental \(nhs.scot\)](#).

As you will appreciate it is important that dental teams manage the waste associated with NHS and private care (non-NHS dentistry and non-surgical cosmetic procedures) to ensure appropriate disposal arrangements are in place. I would remind practices in particular that you must have a private contract in place for the disposal of non-NHS waste. I would encourage you also to speak to your health board's WMT if you have any queries relating to your specific practice situation. It is for practices to work together with your local health board contacts and WMT to identify any support needs that may be necessary.

The collection of clinical waste is an important part of the effective management of NHS dental services in Scotland. Compliance with the PAA and regulation ensures that Tradebe, the current contractor, meets the requirements of their waste permit and can continue to provide waste collection services for all NHS Scotland boards. Further, the increasing costs of providing these services require all members of the dental team to segregate waste appropriately to support the most efficient use of resources in addition to best practice management of waste.

I am aware also that there is guidance available:

- **Turas:** [Waste Management Training Resources from NHS Assure | Turas | Learn](#)
- <https://www.scottishdental.nhs.scot/waste-management-resources/>

Should you have any questions please contact your Health Board waste management officer.

Yours sincerely



Tom Ferris