

To: NHS Trust/Board Chief Executives
NHS Trust/Board Medical Directors
NHS Directors of Medical Education

9th June 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Restart of Medical and Dental Education and Training

We are writing to ask that, as you plan and implement the resumption of services, you also ensure the safe and effective restart of medical and dental education and training.

As you are acutely aware, the Covid-19 pandemic has presented numerous and unprecedented challenges to the delivery of medical and dental education and training. To address these, the UK Statutory Education Bodies (SEBs), working with key partners, have together adapted and developed processes to ensure both the ability of the system to meet service demands and, whilst inevitably there has been some disruption, the continuation of medical and dental education and training. Your cooperation and support has been key to the success of our efforts to date and we would like to place on record our gratitude for the way you have accommodated these changes and enabled service and training to continue as far as possible.

To date, much of our focus has been on addressing the immediate issues facing students and trainees in the 2019/20 academic/training year. However, it is critical that we now turn our attention to the future and, in particular, how education and training should restart from August and September onwards. The SEBs are agreed that a four nation approach should be adopted to ensure consistency and minimise disruption across the UK.

As a result, the following **principles** have been agreed by the SEBs to frame and govern the restart of education and training:

1. Restart of medical and dental education should be fully **integrated** into plans to rebuild clinical services. Undergraduate medical students in years 3-5 should restart clinical placements in September 2020;
2. Students and trainees should be facilitated to learn **wherever** the service is located – whether the service has moved to a different Trust /Board site or independent hospital;
3. Students and trainees should be facilitated to learn **however** the service is delivered – whether that is face to face or virtually;
4. Students and trainees should have access to **protective equipment** to enable them to participate and learn during service delivery;
5. Students and trainees should be provided with mandatory formal education using **whatever methods of delivery** are the most suitable;
6. There should be an increased focus on delivering a **high quality of medical and dental education** in view of the reduced quantity of experience available;
7. There should be increased attention to **supervision and support** of students and trainees in view of the disruption of normal team structure and service delivery locations – the time of educators and supervisors must be protected to deliver this;

8. Educators and trainers should be facilitated to **participate in medical and dental recruitment, examination and assessment** processes to enable students and trainees to progress in their courses/programmes and support the flow of highly capable medical and dental professionals into the service.

Whilst we recognise it is not possible or appropriate to prescribe the detailed arrangements which service providers should follow, adherence to these principles is seen as crucial to underpin the safe and high quality restart of medical and dental education and training. We will offer support and guidance wherever possible.

To ensure the future delivery of high quality service and patient care we trust you will agree it is imperative that we focus also on the restart of education and training and that these principles provide an appropriate framework to ensure that is delivered safely and effectively.

We thank you once again for your great efforts to ensure delivery of both patient care and high quality education and training.

Yours sincerely,



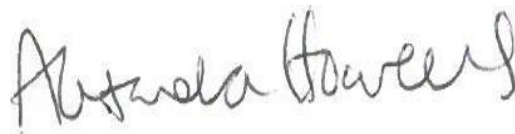
Professor Wendy Reid
Acting Chief Executive
Health Education England



Professor Keith Gardiner
Postgraduate Medical Dean/Chief Executive
Northern Ireland Medical & Dental Training Agency



Professor D Stewart Irvine
Acting Chief Executive
NHS Education for Scotland



Alex Howells
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Health Education and Improvement Wales