



Preparing for return to practice: Guidance Update - 1st June 2020.

Introduction.

The following is an overview of updates relating to the following JCCP documents:

[Preparing for return to practice](#)

[Navigating the challenges raised regarding returning to work safely.](#)

These updates have been incorporated into the documents. For those already familiar with them, this update may be read independently.

Triage

Further to the recent Government announcement, Loss of smell and/or taste is now recognised as a symptom of Covid-19. This should now be included in the triage policy when questioning the client prior to attending clinic.

Fit testing

Under Health & Safety (COSHH) regulations, fit testing is a legal requirement for employers where the treatment necessitates the use of a FFP mask, including for use during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The resources below provide valuable guidance and JCCP recommend that employers review their requirements for 'qualitative' fit testing through a competent person.

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/respiratory-protective-equipment/fit-testing-basics.htm> [Guidance on RPE fit testing. HSE. RPE at work. HSE](#)
<https://www.rcn.org.uk/magazines/bulletin/2020/june/fit-test-vs-fit-check-covid-19>

Return dates

The return to practice date for all elective aesthetic (i.e. non-medically related procedures) treatments is the date agreed upon by each of the four UK Government administrations in their respective countries. The **Scottish Government** has advised that this will not be until they announce that Scotland has moved to 'Phase 3' of the national 'Route Map'. The Scottish Government has advised that Phase 3 includes:

‘Independent clinics and hospitals can begin to offer elective procedures and regular preventative healthcare check-ups and screening can begin to recommence’.



In **England** no such specific guidance has been issued, although the Westminster Government has advised in their guidance to accompany the ‘The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020’, which businesses and venues can remain open to the public at the present time. This includes dental services, opticians, audiology services, chiropody, chiropractors, osteopaths and other medical or health services (including physiotherapy and podiatry services), and services relating to mental health. A new footnote was added to the guidance last week in relation to this section, stating:

‘Services which involve healthcare need to take into account any advice or guidance issued by regulators, the relevant professional body, Chief Professional Officers, or the NHS, as appropriate’.

The Department of Health and Social Care has further advised that it cannot provide comments on individual cases of whether or not a business is permitted to open. ‘It is for each business to assess whether they are a business exempt from closing having considered the Regulations’. here: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/350>. Additional information to assist interpretation of the Regulations by businesses can be found in the guidance. At this time, where businesses do remain open they are strongly advised to do so only where staff and customers can adhere to PHE guidelines on social distancing’: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people>

The JCCP understands that there is no obligation to cease practice in the UK under coronavirus legislation where the treatment is for a medical purpose. For practitioners wishing to use this guidance with a view to resuming practice before the Government advises, you should be prepared to defend and confirm *both* the medical nature of the treatment *and* the need or urgency attached to it. Please see also JCCP guidance: [‘Navigating the challenges.’](#)

Testing

The purpose of testing is to confirm that the practitioner does not have the CovSARS2 virus and thereby limits the risk of transmitting Covid-19. In view of this the following factors should be considered:

- The test is a snapshot in time and in any event is not 100% accurate. You should consider taking the test at regular intervals.
- Antibody (blood) tests confirm a past infection. Given uncertainty regarding immunity, the test may not indicate the absence of the CovSARS2 virus and therefore the risk of transmitting it.
- You should review government advice on testing and confirm any test has government approval, including a CE mark.



Patient confidentiality and GDPR

With Covid-19 restrictions in place, the JCCP is aware of the increased need for the use of technology, including social media, for remote discussions with or about patients. The JCCP reminds practitioners of their professional obligation towards patient confidentiality and the legal requirements of GDPR. Online group discussions, particularly on social media, including 'closed' groups are likely to breach these requirements. Practitioners are therefore advised to consider carefully how they maintain confidentiality when using online technology.

Further information

BMLA

For laser related treatments the BMLA has updated its guidance:

<https://www.bmla.co.uk/covid-19/> **ISCAS**

<https://www.cedr.com/app/uploads/2020/05/COVID19-ISCAS-FAQs-Reopening-26May20.pdf> **HIS**

The following guide provides useful important information for Scottish clinics and useful additional links nationally.

[COVID-19 - Guidance for reopening independent healthcare services in Scotland](#)