

**Position Statement:** *To be adhered to in line with the [Worcestershire Prescribing Policy](#)*

<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Medicines (including but <u>not</u> exclusively high strength fluoride toothpastes and fluoride mouthwashes)</b> for the treatment of dental conditions.
<b>Commissioning position</b>	The prescribing of dental products by General Practitioners (GPs) on FP10 prescriptions is <b>not supported</b> for people registered with a Worcestershire GP or resident within Worcestershire and not currently registered with any GP.
<b>Summary of Evidence</b>	<p>In consideration of this position statement the committee considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The British Medical Association (BMA) guidance<sup>1</sup> states:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– ‘GPs should not attempt to manage a condition requiring dental skills unless they have the appropriate training and expertise’.</li> <li>– ‘Dentists are obliged to issue NHS prescriptions to NHS patients where required’.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ If GPs were to prescribe medicines for dental conditions, they then would be responsible for subsequent monitoring requirements, for which they may not be the most appropriate clinical practitioner.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>➤ Dentists can prescribe medicines from the Dental Practitioners’ Formulary (DPF) on NHS prescriptions (list is found in the BNF or Drug Tariff) for treatment provided within the NHS contract.<sup>3</sup></li> <li>➤ Dentists can also issue private prescriptions; a patient receiving treatment privately should always be given a private prescription, even if the medicine needed is available on the DPF.</li> <li>➤ Cancer patients are at an increased risk of developing dental problems due to treatment causing a permanent change in the mouth, teeth and jaws.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, it is important for cancer patients to attend regular check ups with their dentist, even after treatment has finished, and for their dentist to prescribe dental products if required.</li> <li>➤ <u>Self-care</u>: many dental products (except for high fluoride toothpastes) are available to buy over the counter from community pharmacies and supermarkets.</li> </ul>
<b>Approved Date for Review</b>	September 2019 September 2022
<b>References</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. BMA (2016) <i>Patients Presenting with Possible Dental Problems</i>. Available at: <a href="https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/gp-practices/quality-first/manage-inappropriate-workload/patients-presenting-with-possible-dental-problems">https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/gp-practices/quality-first/manage-inappropriate-workload/patients-presenting-with-possible-dental-problems</a> (Accessed: 29 July 2019).</li> <li>2. PrescQIPP (2015) B95. Dental products on FP10 (DROP-List) 2.1. Available at: <a href="https://www.prescqipp.info/media/1280/b95-dental-products-on-fp10-drop-list-21.pdf">https://www.prescqipp.info/media/1280/b95-dental-products-on-fp10-drop-list-21.pdf</a> (Accessed: 29 July 2019).</li> <li>3. General Dental Council (2013). <i>Guidance on Prescribing Medicines</i>. Available at: <a href="https://www.gdc-uk.org/docs/default-source/guidance-documents/guidance-on-prescribing-medicines.pdf?sfvrsn=2e82e39c_2">https://www.gdc-uk.org/docs/default-source/guidance-documents/guidance-on-prescribing-medicines.pdf?sfvrsn=2e82e39c_2</a> (Accessed: 12 August 2019).</li> <li>4. Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust (2018). <i>Dental Care for Patients with Head and Neck Cancer</i>. Available at: <a href="https://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/resources/patient-information/dental/dental-care-head-neck-cancer.pdf">https://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/resources/patient-information/dental/dental-care-head-neck-cancer.pdf</a> (Accessed: 29 July 2019).</li> </ol>