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Sent by email to:

Dental, Optometric and Community
Pharmacy Contractors

Date 16th November 2023
Our Ref PC/NPA/2023-11-16
email Paul.Cushley2@nhs.scot

Dear Colleague

I am writing to confirm that the “at no costs” Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which has been made available through the PECOS online ordering portal from NHS National Procurement, will stop at the end of this financial year (end of March 2024). The last deliveries of this PPE will be made to you in March 2024, (ordered month ending February 2024).

Whilst we will remove the PPE from the PECOS catalogue available to you, and you will be unable to order PPE from PECOS, your PECOS account will not be suspended. (Continued access to a PECOS account may provide future opportunities for ordering between contractors and Boards.)

Contractors should be aware that ongoing monitoring of all ordering is in place and that any over ordering, above the volume of PPE agreed between the contractor and their Health Board will lead immediately to both the delivery and their PECOS account being terminated. PECOS accounts have already been cancelled due to attempted over ordering in several Health Boards.

Early in the pandemic, in the face of worldwide increase in demand for PPE, we saw a reduction in the availability and then subsequently the increase in price of PPE items. The need for more complex PPE, particularly in dentistry to support the delivery of aerosol generating procedures (AGPs), where both the use of FFP3 masks and the concomitant face fitting requirements delivered additional demands on primary care teams.

NHS National Procurement who had previously only supplied PPE to the secondary care sector were tasked not just with the responsibility of providing the PPE to ensure the continuation of our primary care services, but for the continuation of all health and social care across all communities across Scotland.



Chair Keith Redpath
Chief Executive Mary Morgan

NHS National Services Scotland is the common name of the Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service.

From a standing start National Procurement moved from delivering extra PPE to Health Board central stores to a direct “to the door delivery service” to every contractor in every Health Board in Scotland. We also saw incremental increase in supply of PPE to support the re-establishment of primary care services with a bespoke online ordering service. Delivery of the face fitting service to primary care was also part of the additional role that National Procurement has assumed since the start of the pandemic.

I would like to thank all the staff who contributed to the development and delivery of these additional services.

The removal of access to at no cost PPE is not a reflection of any significant change in the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual. ([National Infection Prevention and Control Manual: Home \(scot.nhs.uk\)](https://www.scot.nhs.uk/nipcm/)) Contractors are reminded that this remains their source of up to date information regarding their requirements and that this guidance is subject to regular updates and revisions and as such contractors should use the link to access the most up to date version of this guidance.

Can I ask that you now engage with your commercial supplier of PPE and sundries to discuss your ongoing requirements and secure your requirements with them.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Paul Cushley', written in a cursive style.

PAUL CUSHLEY
Chair National Primary Care PPE Group