# Dental System Reform – New Patient Premium

## Statement of voluntary application of the Code of Practice for Statistics

As part of the joint plan by NHS England and Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to recover and reform NHS dentistry, a New Patient Premium (NPP) was introduced on 1 March 2024.

Data relating to the NPP has been published by the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA). This data has been classed as management information. However, the NHSBSA is committed to applying the [Code of Practice for Statistics](https://code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/) to the publication of this data set centred around its 3 core ‘pillars’:

* Trustworthiness – confidence in the people and organisations that produce statistics and data
* Quality – data and methods that produce assured statistics
* Value – statistics that support society’s need for information

The NPP data set has been classed as management information as it has not been possible to meet some of the requirements to class this release as official statistics. For example, we cannot:

* Meet the full requirements for principle [T3: Orderly Release](https://code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/the-code/trustworthiness/t3-orderly-release/)
* Due to the short timelines involved we have not been able to meet the full requirements of principle [V1: Relevance to users](https://code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/the-code/value/v1-relevance-to-users/)

We have voluntarily applied the [Code of Practice for Statistics](https://code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/) for this data set where this has been possible.

### Trustworthiness

The NPP data set has been produced by the NHSBSA, an arms-length body of DHSC, to aid monitoring the delivery and support the evaluation of the scheme.

This data set has been developed and assured by NHSBSA analysts with support from NHSBSA Government Statistician Group (GSG) badged statisticians and guidance from the DHSC Head of Profession for Statistics.

This ad hoc release has been pre-announced ahead of its release as soon as was practicable, and any further releases will be pre-announced at least 4 week before publication.

Any issues that are identified with the data will be communicated with users as quickly as possible through the issuing of a notice correction and an update the supporting documentation.

### Quality

The NPP data is sourced from a single system called Compass. This system is used by NHS commissioners, dental providers, dentists to access and administer NHS dental services. Comprehensive quality assurance is carried out on this data before it is used for other purposes.

The limitations of this data set, including different methods that have been used between other published sources of NHS Dental data, have been described in the accompanying documentation. This includes information on things such as how patients have been classified as adults or children.

Quality assurance for dental data happens at many different levels:

* All FP17s submitted by dentists through Compass are subject to validation against business rules. This assures that all mandatory fields are completed appropriately.
* The NHSBSA Data Platforms team maintains the code and infrastructure used to produce this data set, following standard best practice in addition to NHSBSA standards.
* Data Services analysts lead on the creation of data sets and follow comprehensive assurance processes to ensure validity of data.

The NHSBSA maintains close relationships with stakeholders at NHS England and DHSC and engages them for feedback when planning to publish a new data set.

### Value

The NPP data set is published on the [NHSBSA Open Data Portal (ODP)](https://opendata.nhsbsa.net/) providing free and equal access to all users. The ODP allows users to access the most granular data available in an easily accessible and machine-readable format. Data can be accessed through:

* Downloading a CSV file
* Through an Application Programming Interface (API)
* Filtering using the front-end tool and downloading subsets of data

Comprehensive explanatory material has also been provided alongside the NPP data set to help users make informed decisions about the scheme. Comparisons have also been made against existing dental data sets to allow users to understand what data sets they should use and when to use them.

The NHSBSA openly invites users of all our data sets to provide their feedback through routes such as user surveys and direct contact with analytical teams. Any feedback is then considered and used to improve our data products in the future.