Dental Public Health Update to Local Dental Committees - December 2018

Health Promotion- Smoking and Alcohol

Referral to Help Me Quit (HMQ) is quick and easy. Following Brief Intervention on smoking cessation, you can provide a patient’s contact details to the HMQ team if the patient agrees for such referral. HMQ team will then contact the patient offering them help to quit.

No login is required!

Here is the link to the HMQ professional referrer page - https://www.helpmequit.wales/professional-referral-form/

Free health promotion resources are available for you to order - https://publichealthwales.ecwid.com/ this includes bilingual resources for alcohol, smoking and healthy eating. By clicking on the subject matter that you are interested in you will find all the products that are available. Each product can be added to your basket, numbers of each item can be increased and checking out will take you through a process which is very similar to most online shopping websites. If any issues with website compatibility, or the ordering process, please email health.info@wales.nhs.uk

A bilingual infograph to support Mouth Cancer Action Month was produced and circulated. We hope dental practices were able to support the awareness campaign.

Designed to Smile in Practice

A new map has been created to help share information about which nurseries and schools are targeted by the Designed to Smile programme, relative to the location of NHS dental practices in Wales.
You can find this at: http://www.designedtosmile.org/info-pro/information-for-dental-practices/

Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) now offers an e-learning package called D2S in practice. For more information, contact Heather.Stewart@wales.nhs.uk

General Dental Service Reform Programme

- There are now over 50 GDS Reform practices across Wales, the map linked below shows the spread https://drive.google.com/open?id=10e0C-Lozmu-JZA8D7904xSXMseE8&usp=sharing
A full update on what is happening in the GDS Reform Programme can be found here https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18PVbZUylM-gYFlnuCjdse_Ymfl0Na9VU?usp=sharing
• We are expecting more dental practices to start the programme on 1st of April 2019, and that Health Boards complete their process well in advance so that new practices are fully set up by 1st of April (e.g. expectations understood, Service Level Agreement in place, software updated and checked that ACORN data can be submitted via electronic FP17Ws etc)

• We are working with the Welsh Government to clarify process for existing reform practices to move to the second phase of the programme where practices will receive additional support (e.g. >10% annual UDA target reduction) to further implement changes e.g. recall intervals based on ‘risk and need’, improve ‘access’ etc. This will be sent to health boards and reform practices soon.

• The deadline for bids for the Welsh Government’s Innovation Fund closed on Friday 26th October. The main aim of the fund was to encourage use of skill-mix in the GDS. A panel with membership from the Welsh Dental Committee (WDC), Welsh Government (WG), Public Health Wales (PHW), Health Boards and Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) was formed to review the bids. It is expected that WG will let all the applicants know if they have been successful in their bid before Christmas.

• A service specification has been provided to the Welsh Government to procure external qualitative evaluation of the programme. Findings from this evaluation will inform the programme. The Dental Public Health Team will also analyse the 2018/19 annual GDS data (when available after July 2019). In the meantime, we will be producing 6 months practice profiles as ‘feedback’ to reform practices and health boards. A combined profile report will be produced for the GDS Reform Programme Steering Group.

Health Protection and Dental Health

Flu vaccination
Have you had your flu vaccine? Vaccination is the best way to protect you and your patients from flu. We encourage dental team members to get vaccinated against the seasonal flu if you have not already done so. It should be available via your health board’s Occupational Health and/or your own GP.

Antibiotic prescribing
A refreshed five year Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy will be published soon. We encourage dental practitioners to review appropriateness of their antibiotic prescribing by participating in a funded audit available via HEIW.

Upcoming Event

Tickets have been released for the 2nd annual Dental Symposium: Transforming Dentistry in Wales. It has been great to see the positive response with some practices enabling whole teams to attend. This event was sold out last year and feedback was incredibly positive. Tickets are
available via the link below, with nearly 70% already gone we would advise reserving your spot to avoid disappointment!  
https://transformingdentistryinwales.eventbrite.co.uk

Dental Public Health Team wishes you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Best wishes,

Dental Public Health Team, Public Health Wales