GDPC Report for LDC JULY 2020

Primarily England focussed as one would expect. We have been meeting roughly every 2-3 weeks.

Overall the picture in England a N Ireland is not as good as that in Wales for NHS/Private practices with less certainty and more variability in the regions. Despite the early relaxation of restrictions many practices have not gone back to providing AGPs.

England is currently at “level 3 status”. ECDO has indicated that Level 2 is business as usual [whatever that is]

The Scottish CDO has commissioned a paper to be produced on the efficacy of “gadgetry” for use in dental surgeries within the current crisis. It will be shared when completed

English CDO has indicated that there will be a step back from a National Steer on Covid issues. The responsibility will fall on Area Teams and LDCs to respond according to local conditions.

This is manifesting itself in terms of variability of support from area teams from area to area and contrasts with the “Once for Wales” ethos

There has been a recognition by PHE of the importance of the private sector within dentistry and the implications for NHS dentistry should private practices start to fail

A large number of FFP2 masks have been purchased by PHE for distribution….but they look like they are fake??

The abatement for the period April- June should be agreed shortly.

The DOH position is 16.75%. The BDA position is slightly lower. Agreement is expected soon.

The BDA are asking for 0% abatement for UDC sites and no backdating of abatements.

English GDPs are being asked to tick some extra boxes for every claim submitted. they have to do this via Compass and this is affecting the system and slowing it down significantly. Lots of complaints.

Negotiations for the period after June 8th will fall into 3 categories [Q2]

* CDS UDC sites
* Practices performing UDCs
* Practices acting as non UDC sites

There will be ongoing discussion that relate to Qs 3 and 4

BUPA are offering employment status to all of their associates but higher salaries in areas of recruitment difficulty. [self employed status of associates weakened?] Anecdotally many overseas dentists are leaving the Country.

Some LDCs are offering fit testing for practices in their area using levy monies to do so.

Fit testing is a HSE directive and noncompliance is not advised. There are reports of some dental practices [private] that have gone back to work as if nothing as happened and are operating to pre covid standards. There are also reports of both private and mixed practices offering private zoom consultations and then private treatment based on that consultation.

Carol Rees was present and it is clear that England are a long way behind Wales in negotiating how things should go forward. The BDA want a 100% capitation model but the DoH is not currently accepting that argument

GDPC elections will be delayed for 12 months due to the COVID crisis.

Doug