**Welsh GDPC Chair Update to LDC**

**21st August 2020**

This week I am writing on behalf of WGDPC to all of the Health Boards and to Welsh Government raising concerns over all eligible practices being able to access the free PPE promised by Welsh Government as part of the Amber phase of de-escalation. The free PPE is appreciated however there seems a variable picture in terms of access to this PPE. The issue of sending out masks that are beyond their use by date and seem to have had their use by date extended will also been raised, as it important to know how has the safety of these masks been established.

Last week I attended the UK GDPC meeting, key outcomes included an update on ongoing BDA discussions with HMRC on the self employed status of associates, and how the pandemic has impacted on this. At present HMRC are not going to change their historical position but may review further according to ongoing contract changes. In England there is ongoing negotiation on NHS contracting from September, options include looking at providing 20% of activity for 100% of contract value with a range of other features. In Northern Ireland the impact of the loss of PCR has been huge and RQIA (their equivalent of HIW) have announced they are starting on site practice inspections again.

A reply has been received from CDO Wales on the funding position vs England regarding contract abatement and AGP funding. The reply states that there will not be any changes to the Wales abatement in light of the England position. There is a review planned for contract value position in Q3. Further details can be found at: <https://bda.org/news-centre/latest-news-articles/wales-cdo-says-contract-value-abatement-last-quarter-stands>

Great concerns remain around fallow time differences after non AGP across the UK nations. England/Northern Ireland/Scotland have no fallow time after non AGPs. WGDPC will again be making representations to Welsh Government on this and asking for the specific scientific evidence as why this is the case as this is pivotal to providing greater patient care.

BDA have released this letter in response to the proposals to disband Public Health England. <https://www.bda.org/news-centre/press-releases/Pages/Double-down-on-prevention-Open-letter-to-Matt-Hancock.aspx>

Please also note the update on test and trace and the impacts on dental staff if there is a case <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings#test-and-trace>

Finally, this blog casts a look back at some of things BDA Wales has been for the benefit of dentists and their teams in recent months. <https://bda.org/news-centre/blog/Pages/Wales-Were-making-your-voice-heard-on-the-issues-that-matter.aspx>

Best wishes

Tom

Tom Bysouth, Chair Welsh GDPC.