

Welsh GDPC Chair Update to LDC

5th February 2021

Since my last update of January 24th there has been ongoing engagement with the Chief Dental Officer for Wales who has indicated that colleagues will receive a further update from Welsh Government on **Quarter 4 2020/2021 NHS requirements** and what can be expected in the new financial year from April 2021.

I have written to **HIW** following their recent stakeholder meeting with a range of questions around dental practice inspections. In their reply HIW confirm that their latest draft plans are being finalised and will be shared in the near future, with comments welcomed. It was also confirmed that DCP led practices would be subject to the same process as dentist led practices, and that a strategy is being planned for inspection of online only dental care providers. Practices will also note the recent reduction in HIW fees and an extension to the payment deadline until the end of March 2021.

Unfortunately the Oral Evidence to the Doctors and Dentists Pay Review Body (**DDRB**) has been postponed until April 2021 from the original planned date in February. This is because the Department of Health and Social Care do not expect to submit their written evidence until late February which has caused a delay to the process. The BDA have written to the DDRB expressing their frustration and disappointment at this delay.

There has also been engagement with NHS **111** to clarify the advice that call handlers are providing to patients with dental problems around GP's being asked to prescribe antibiotics. 111 have confirmed that they do not advise that a dental patients GP prescribes antibiotics for a dental problem.

Following the problems around **dental nurse training** which occurred across parts of Wales, the All Wales Faculty for Dental Care Professionals has been developing a syllabus for dental nurse training, to which WGDPC will be contributing.

UK GDPC met on 29th January, with updates being received across the four nations. Of note are the increasingly diverse NHS contractual arrangements with England having to work to a 45% UDA target, Northern Ireland having to achieve 15% of their pre covid activity to get 100% of their pre covid payments but having to source and pay for their own PPE, and Scotland receiving 85% of their pre covid item of service income.

There was also discussion on associate payments, the variation in vaccine availability to wholly private colleagues across the UK and how the ruling by the Supreme Court on Business Interruption Insurance will impact practices

Finally, a reminder that the **BDA Mental Health Survey** remains open. Details at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/70FLDD>.

Best wishes

Tom