

Domiciliary Dental Care Task and Finish Group

A further meeting of the Domiciliary Dental Task and Finish Group took place on October.

Discussion centred on the following main areas

1. Integration of services across the ABMU Health Board as there did not appear to be much correlation between provision of services in the old Morgannwg NPT and Bridgend areas.
2. Formulation of a referral pathway for patients to the existing practices who provide DDS in the area. Discussions followed regarding triage of cases and possible use of CDS as central referral hub for patients to be referred to GDP, HDS or further CDS care.
3. Need for rigid referral criteria i.e. whether a patient was actually “domiciled” or using the service for convenience. It was agreed that locally and nationally accepted policies should be adhered to although it was further agreed that difficulties could arise especially via residential / nursing home referrals, as to whether a patient was actually entitled to DDC.
4. There seems to be deep concerns in ABMU about the effectiveness of DD services and that good value for money is not being achieved for the monies currently committed. It was felt that this was largely because of a lack of data as to what treatment is being provided by each contract holder. The fact that a significant percentage of treatment provided on domiciliary cases, would come into the box marked “other treatment” on the current FP17, does not help in this respect. A method of data reporting from contract holders was suggested, and further work on a pro forma to cover this aspect would be desirable.

The next meeting of the group is on Friday 2nd December. It would be helpful if any interested parties email me before this with any comments so that they can be considered at the meeting.