

Local Dental Committee

Monday 21st September 2015

Update on the Provision of Occupational Health Services for ABM Health Board NHS Dental Practices

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Background

Immunisation in General Dental Practice

Advice from ABMU Dental Practice Adviser is as follows:

'Under the Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA) 1974, employers (practice owners), employees (e.g. dentist performers, hygienists and dental nurses) have a duty to protect, so far as is reasonable, themselves, those who they work with and their patients. Legislation requires employers to carry out a risk assessment of staff'.

All new employees should undergo a pre-employment health assessment, which should include a review of immunisation history.

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002 requires employers to assess the risks from exposure to hazardous substances, including pathogens.

Immunity from the following should be checked and the following routine vaccinations up to date:

- Tetanus,
- Diphtheria,
- Polio
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella
- Hepatitis B
- Chickenpox
- BCG
- Annual Flu Vaccination

Situation

ABM Health Board's Primary Care and Occupational Health teams have worked together to develop a Service level Agreement to provide occupational health services to dental practices that are contracted to deliver dental services to NHS patients. This service is funded using the Welsh Government allocation received by primary care teams for this purpose. In February 2015 the Local Dental Committee agreed to the process proposed for undertaking health surveillance for existing clinical staff and the following action was taken:

- In February 2015 All Dental Practices fitting the criteria were invited to submit expressions of interest by 31st March 2015
- In April 2015 an update was provided on numbers expression an interest by the deadline
- During April and May 2015, more Practices submitted expressions of interest and these were accepted although the deadline had passed
- In June 2015 Health Declarations were sent to Lead Dentists/Practice Managers to issue to their clinical staff.
- Trainees and new recruits will be cleared as soon as possible. Practice leads should contact Margaret Lake to arrange this.

Update

The table below provides an update of activity to date:

	Dental Practices Expressing an Interest	Dentists	Dental Nurses	Hygienists	Total	Completed Health Declarations Received
Swansea	33	115	201	28	344	26
Bridgend	14	52	82	14	148	6
Neath Port Talbot	12	38	71	10	119	2
Total	59	205	354	52	611	38

