

Morgannwg LDC Zoom Meeting Thursday 22nd October 19.00

Welcome from LDC Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2020 were approved.

Update from Karl Bishop, Dental Director, Primary and Community Delivery Unit, SBUHB

- The new Chief Executive had now been appointed and Mark Hackett would be in post on 21st January 2021.
- There had been an escalation in Covid response over the last few weeks. Gold Command (SMT) were now meeting five days a week which included weekends. Meetings had dropped to once a week since the summer.
- The amount of Covid positive beds within the Hospital settings had increased by one third over a week. A number of care homes had again had to close their doors due to an increase in positive cases.
- Less pressure on critical care beds at the moment but this might change; continued pressure on staffing.
- The Bay Hospital site could be operational within 7-10 days if necessary, but the medical model was not one of an acute hospital.
- During the last 6-8 weeks reactivation of services had begun, CDS, DTU, and Restorative etc. These were all now on pause, work was now being carried out around workforce planning should the Covid situation deteriorate.

Health Board Issues Around Dentistry

- Due to the decreased activity within GDS this was having a knock-on effect on access and in turn OOH and In Hours access. There had been a large increase in the number of patients seeking access to the In Hours and Out of Hours services.
- The PCT were looking at how this situation could be improved.
- The importance of practices keeping clear and accurate records of patients receiving treatment and advice and submission of timely and accurate data was stressed. Welsh Government is using this information to plan services.
- AGPs are not the only benchmark considered as reasonable activity may differ from practice to practice. Any issues around reporting should be raised with HB so they can offer help and support.
- HB will share data activity once received; there will hopefully be useful data from ACORN and FP17s and information will be available through eDEN.
- NHSBSA are due to roll out a dashboard in eDEN to show activity.

PPE

- There was currently a national shortage of FFP3 masks although FFP2 are plentiful, Welsh Government are working to source further supplies.
- Dental Teams are encouraged to turn off their NHS Covid apps on smart phones whilst in work. If TTP should contact any practice they should then immediately contact the HB for advice and support.

Fallow Time

- The fallow times mentioned in the current Welsh SOP will remain as they are for now.
- Air filtration devices alone would make no difference to the rate of air exchange. They would have no effect in a window less room but have an added benefit where natural/mechanical ventilation exists.
- GDPs are reminded to ensure to ensure all validation is dated and documented.
- Sam Page was looking into the possibility of any funding available to GDPs regarding air exchangers/ventilation equipment.

Parkway Update

- Parkway terminated its Paediatric GA contract with SBUHB on Tuesday 20th October 2020 with three months notice.
- The service will come to an end in January 2021 after 23 years, it was agreed the service will be greatly missed and will be a huge loss to dental services.

DFT

- There were issues around fit testing and appropriate PPE with the current cohort, two of the DTU DFs will need hoods fitted. Once these are received, they will be able to move forward with providing AGPs. Postscript only one FD will now need a hood
- There were IT issues around the single lead employer initiatives.
- There was a meeting held on 23rd September to discuss certain clauses in the Training Placement Agreement, HEIW are waiting for a revised version of the agreement from the NWSSP legal and risk team. Once the version 10 doc is drafted it will be forwarded to the BDA for comment.
- As a result, no agreement in place between training practices and the Postgraduate Deanery.
- David Thomas has now retired from the role of Director of Postgraduate Dental Education at the Wales Deanery. Kirstie Moons and Will McCloughlin are acting as interim deans jointly sharing responsibilities.
- This year's final year dental students are unlikely to have a final decision on their graduation date in the foreseeable future. It is thought this may cause issues around registration with GDC, students being advised to pre-populate their applications in readiness.
- Uncertainty around graduation and the knock-on effect of joining performer lists could lead to a potential need to have more than one start dates across the UK. The situation is unclear at present as Covid has had such a massive effect on undergraduate and postgraduate dental training.
- Trainer grants had not increased for many years and did not reflect the increased training workload now required from educational supervisors.

Update from DPAs

- QAS maybe in a reduced format this year with the removal of non-mandatory sections although there was no return date set as yet. Although it was thought likely December to be returned in January 2021.
- DPAs will be asking practices for training plans re CPR as practices will not have been able to receive in-house training sessions this year.
- Due to COVID-19 the Dental Section at HEIW has introduced a blended approach for dental team's basic life support training. The section has collaborated with the Pharmacy section within HEIW, to offer dental professionals an online BLS training module. After completion of the online module, practices can supplement this training with a practical session in house carried out with commissioned training providers. Social distancing measures would be in place. This would meet GDC criteria and 2 hours verifiable CPD.
- Flu Vaccine – OH had made extra sessions available for dental teams.

Update from LDC

- The issues around Contract Reform practices not having their uplift to £25 added permanently to their ACV was being looked at and will be resolved.
- Underperformance 19/20 cannot be carried forward to 20/21 due to UDAs being suspended for this year. Therefore Practices achieving 95-100% will have two options:-
Accept financial clawback up to 100% or
Convert part/all of the underperformance into OOH or in hour access sessions. Practices that have a monetary clawback will have a six month period to make the payments starting immediately. Orthodontic contracts have no option but to pay back outstanding UOA under performance. LDC to look at these options as they were not discussed in September's LDC/LHB Liaison group Meeting.

Welsh GDPC Meeting 16th October 2020-emailed to all previously

- If a further national lockdown was to take place the CDO confirmed the current SOP still stands.
- Contract change needs looking at to be fair and equal, current variation in UDA rates is thought to be unfair along with various HBs different ways of dealing with contracts. The CDO is highly aware of the inequality and is keen to take this forward.

Further Updates

- It was felt the disparity between sectors GDS/HDS around air and fallow time needs to be discussed. Further guidance is needed from HB, to allow practices to operate within the framework of the SOP. Practices are reminded they can speak with DPAs if they require further support.

Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 10th December 2020