

Welsh GDPC Chair Update to LDC

8th September 2020

Since my last update all will hopefully have received details of the updated SOP and accompanying letter from the CDO, with details of reductions in fallow time for AGP subject to air changes and additional mitigating factors. Details available at <http://www.primarycareone.wales.nhs.uk/covid19-information-for-dental-services>.

In the week running up to the release of the updated SOP I contacted Warren Tolley (Deputy CDO) as chair of the covid dental leads group to again make the case for further reduced fallow times and raised concern over the challenges for dental practice estates in being able to provide and verify air changes. Welsh GDPC will keep raising issues on this vital topic behalf of colleagues.

I have been in communication with the CDO for Wales on the impacts of local lockdowns on dental practices in the relevant areas. Dr Bridgman has advised that practices should remain in Amber alert, and continue to utilise the most up to date SOP, whilst taking into considerations the geographical spread of the local lockdown. Further details are at <https://bda.org/advice/Coronavirus/Pages/latest-updates.aspx>

This week I attended the BDA DDRB committee for NHS contract uplifts, and heard how in England the final contract uplift agreement is yet to be reached. In Wales, Welsh Government executed an uplift of 2.3% fully backdated to April 2020.

Colleagues have raised questions around patient charges and whether should be deducted from monthly schedules, and have raised this with Welsh Government who have said that the patient will pay as normal for any face to face appointments and that the patient charge will be deducted from the monthly schedules.

There remain ongoing concerns about the new contracts in the single lead employer model for Educational Supervisors in Dental Foundation Training.

I will endeavour to keep all updated going forward.

Tom

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Chair, Welsh GDPC