

Welcome from LDC Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2020 were approved.

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

- SBUHB had been in a good position re Covid over the past six weeks. Some Covid action groups had been paused and there had been reactivation of essential services. However, the resurgence of local lockdowns has meant that the HB is now looking how best to respond.
- There was concern that now the schools had reopened, and more people had returned to work there would be an increase in Covid + cases. This had been predicted in a number of models.
- There were now local lock downs in place across South Wales; this was to be the way forward as opposed to a full national lockdown.
- SBUHB was currently running at 18 cases per 100,000 but on an upward trajectory, Caerphilly was already showing a decrease in positive cases following local lockdown.
- It was anticipated December/January was likely to be another pressure time across the HB.
- The importance of social distancing within practices was emphasised, TTP will could isolate a whole practice team if deemed necessary, staff wearing appropriate PPE in non-clinical areas and following SD is essential if this is to be avoided. Any dental practices contacted by TTP were advised to inform the HB immediately for support and advice. Only purely private practices need inform HIW.
- The importance of accurate and timely data returns was reiterated once again as this is being looked at by Welsh Government.

PPE

- The process of distributing PPE via Shared services may change slightly as PPE was still being stored in PTRC. Delivery of PPE direct to practices is being looked at.
- All PPE supplied by Shared Services is fit for purpose and quality assured. An email can be sent to all practices to reassure and explain labelling on some PPE supplied if LDC requests.

Fallow Time

- SDCEP document regarding fallow time recommendations had still not been published but was imminent.
- The fallow times mentioned in the SOP will remain as they are unless IPC/CDOs feel that they may need to change.
- Air filtration devices alone make limited difference to the rate of air exchange which is the key factor affecting fallow time. They would have no effect in a window less room
- GDPs are reminded to ensure to ensure all validation process is dated and documented and if possible an external body is involved.
- Sam Page was looking into the possibility of any funding available to GDPs regarding air exchangers/ventilation equipment.
- Mechanical ventilation devices are not thought to be expensive and as they increase output ability the viability needs to be weighed up. Any practices that do purchase are advised to keep receipts as proof of payment.

Covid Testing

- All of the testing sites were under increasing pressure.
- Covid testing for primary care workers was to be made accessible via Keyworker hub; this will avoid the need to go through the general public route. This includes dental teams

Rohini Mohan – Paed/GA Pathway Update

- There had been a slight change to the referral pathway; e-referral was now being picked up by CDS with priority being given to emergency patients. Paediatric patients were now given a Covid test and told to isolate for 72 hours before a GA session.
- There were 2 Pre –assessment sessions in CDS and 1 GA operating list per week. running but with limited resource.
- Both children and parents had been managed very well through the pandemic only eleven patients had been treated. Thank you to all the GPs for managing the children and managing the expectations of the parents well .
- As there were limited GA sessions and testing available GPs were asked to try and manage patients as much as possible within GDS setting. Although CDS were always contactable for advice and support.
- Attend anywhere was not in use at present as laptops were not available in all clinics. The desktop computers in sites had no microphones so were therefore not suitable.
- Sedation Services were not up and running yet due to lack of resource. We are looking into restarting sedation shortly, however following the WG sedation SOP, we will use the sedation for patients requiring urgent care and in order to avoid the need for GA.
- D2S was not up and running although two schools were due to enter a pilot, all staff had been redeployed during the pandemic. Online resources had been forward to all schools taking part in D2S

DTU Baglan

- The DTU had now returned to normal activity, any referrals received for AGPs were now being sent out to AGP Network Sites.
- There had been a huge drop in the referral numbers.

OOH and In Hours Access

- OOH was to stay within the amber phase up until March 2021. The Health Board continues to monitor flow and model.
- In Hours access sessions were reported to be very busy, there were a high number of patients struggling to get an appointment with a dentist. Additional sessions were being held to try and improve this situation. This is common across Wales.
- The forty-minute appointment slot was to stay for now as it is but is being constantly reviewed.
- GPs were reminded that if a patient telephones who is not a patient of the practice and requests an appointment it would be advantageous if local practices could facilitate access especially if we move into a lockdown phase.
- 111 were reportedly still telling patients that practices are now carrying out routine examinations, LDC to raise this with HB at Liaison Meeting.

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.

- Local lockdowns – the CDO is keen to stay within the amber phase at all dental practices. Practices to risk assess patients who must move across locked down areas to access treatment.

Update from LDC

- There had been no meetings held, there was to be a Liaison Group meeting this Friday.

Further Updates

Oral Surgery/Cambria

- The latest Oral Surgery Newsletter had been published and circulated by HB.
- It was felt to be very frustrating with such high waiting lists that air exchange was dictating fallow time. UVC ceiling mounted bulbs were available to use within the dental practice although it was impossible to receive confirmation within the UK that they enable a reduction in fallow time.
- There were approximately 30-40 referrals being received every week with a high number marked as urgent. Due to current restraints around fallow time this only allowed for five patients per day.
- Due to companies not having Government Guidance around validation it was proving impossible to have definite validation although companies are willing to certify. It was felt GDPs could use professional judgement and self-validate.

Dental Foundation Training

- A number of DFTs still do not have performer numbers.
- All positions had been filled.
- New DFTs had started under single lead employer.

Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 15th October 2020