

Morgannwg LDC Zoom Meeting Thursday 18th March 2021 19.00

Welcome from LDC Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the CDO Dr Colette Bridgman for attending.

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2021 were approved.

21/03/01 Dr Colette Bridgman CDO Welsh Government, Presentation and Q&A session

Dr Bridgman gave an informative presentation which covered the impact of the pandemic on dentistry in Wales and where Contract Reform had reached prior to March 2020. Examples were given of how data is interpreted by WG and how it is utilised to plan dentistry in Wales going forward.

The Pandemic appears to have accelerated reform and change to systems, the CDO is hopeful of retaining the new ways of working and building on their foundations.

The presentation will be circulated to all at the end of this week.

The CDO had been emailed questions from LDC members previously a summary of comments follows: -

Question 1

- CDO is pleased with signs of recovery reflected in data with urgent courses of treatment numbers now reduced to 25%. Although caution must be shown as there would be a number of open courses that had not yet been submitted.
- ACORN was to be a journey for a year in patients with active disease, it was hoped the Care Pathways to be published next week would greatly assist the management of patient's treatment going forward.
- CDO feels very positive about recruitment and retention of dental team members going forward although no reasons were given.
- Any amendments to the SOP going forward would be based on vaccination and community transmission rates. This would have to be taken month by month due to the fluidity of the situation.

Question 2

- CDO confirmed that no practice performance indicators can be compared to last year. This is due to the many constraints imposed by the pandemic i.e., PPE, social distancing, SOP, ventilation to name but a few.
- High/low COT numbers should not be set as targets by Health Boards as this is not WG intention.
- Dentistry in Wales post pandemic will be a different place with a different approach that will not be target driven.

Question 3

- The CDO confirmed there would be an announcement next week to confirm patients 60+ and under 25's would no longer incur a charge for fluoride application. It was expected this would greatly increase the uptake as had happened pre covid in contract reform practices.
- Ministerial approval was being sought to amend regulations around patients' charges for FV and radiographs.

Question 4

- AGPs are having to be reported as there is insufficient data re FP17, it was largely felt the numbers are in fact an underestimate.
- The numbers reported have been very useful around planning during the pandemic and has enabled HB to provide sufficient PPE to practices.
- Although WG will encourage HBs to restore practices to 100% ACV she made the point that in her opinion practices had been well supported financially throughout the pandemic. The rationale for this was the reduction in materials used, lab bills and PPE being provided free of charge by HB had significantly reduced practice overheads.
- Any practice who felt they had had been at a disadvantage financially and had above average costs i.e., had a higher-than-average Band 3 rate. They were encouraged to speak with the HB and state their case to be uplifted accordingly to 100%.

Question 5

- How long an appointment to see a new adult patient for examination, the CDO's opinion is that 30 minutes in the chair is acceptable with 30 minutes fallow time. Therefore 2 hours a week would need to be set aside to see the two new patients a week per £165K contract for 90% ACV. As the new way of working will not be target led this was not felt to be unreasonable.

Question 6

- Covid had had an enormous impact on waiting list not least orthodontics. There were going to have to be a lot of difficult conversations with patients and parents going forward. It was felt higher need complex patients would need to be given priority regardless of where they are on the waiting list.
- The concern that patients currently on waiting list have not been reassessed by their GDP was also raised.

Question 7

- Concern around eDen recordings and the lag in sending off a form for a high need's patient was addressed. The vision going forward is to reduce rushed dentistry and increase time spent encouraging and educating patients.
- CDO encourages practices to encompass the skills of all the dental team in the care of the patient. DCPs and receptionists should all be trained and encouraged to complete ACORNs and therefore leaving the dentist free to carry out the clinical treatment necessary.
- It was hoped the Care Pathways to be published next week would aid the new way of working and help the movement away from target driven dentistry.

A copy of the questions asked of the CDO to be emailed to all by the Secretary.

21/03/02 *Update from DPAs*

- Due to the ever-increasing waiting lists across all disciplines a different outlook to service provision was now needed across the board post Covid. To return to service levels pre covid would result in taking until 2029 to clear backlog.
- There had been 100% QAS returns with all having either green or amber status.
- There had been no decision made by SBUHB regarding the awarding of 100% ACV to providers who are currently treating and accepting new patients. SBUHB were not currently in receipt of the data required to make these individual decisions. Work around this will commence once the range of relevant data had been received.

21/03/03 *Update from LDC.*

- A meeting between LDC/LHB was to be held on Friday 26th March. The 100% ACV was to be discussed along with eDen issues and Attend Anywhere. Members to email any further comments/issues to the Secretary by the beginning of next week.
- OPG referrals to neighbouring practices was to be looked at as the HDS are unable to carry out this service due to there being no SLA.
- WG bonus to healthcare staff had been announced, Welsh GDPC to discuss if this applied to both Private and NHS Primary Care Dental Contractor teams.
- DCP Sub-group – as there had been no expressions of interest it was decided to leave for now.
- Schedules – there was no update on the complicated schedules, to be taken to LDC/LHB meeting.

21/03/04 *Further Updates.*

It was felt a non-target driven service was going to take a considerable time to get used to. No targets was a completely different way of working, concern was raised of the possibility of hidden targets.

21.03/05 *Date and time of next meeting*

Thursday 22nd April 2021