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Gweithwyr Proffesiynol Gofal Deintyddol
All-Wales Faculty for
Dental Care Professionals

Restart of GDS Reform Programme In Wales November 2020

Current situation

The GDS reform Programme was paused in March 2020 due to the COVID19 pandemic. Work has concentrated on the recovery of dental services in Wales and the development of the [Novel Coronavirus \(C-19\) De-escalation Standard Operating Processes for Primary Dental Care Settings in Wales](#).

We need to continue using this 'reset of service' time to step up a preventive approach in primary dental care in Wales, widen access wherever possible, particularly for those who need it most, and to reduce inequalities in impact of dental diseases in the population. This restoration period has offered a contracting environment that allows practices to risk assess their practice population, prioritise those with urgent and high dental need and support patients to maintain and improve their oral health. Practices should be able to offer urgent dental care to any patient who contact them for such care.

COVID19 is still in circulation and public health measures remain necessary to ensure a safe environment for staff, patients and communities. Implementation of dental Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to reduce the risk of COVID19 transmission has meant fewer patients can be 'seen' in a clinical session. While the reduced footfall of patients is understandable, we must grasp this opportunity to innovate and deliver high quality need based dentistry without the distraction of UDA targets.

The planning to restart the General Dental Services (GDS) Reform Programme on the 1st of April 2021 has begun. All key stakeholders will be involved in shaping the reform through different work streams. Use of risk and needs assessment (ACORN) and delivery of need based preventive dental care during the recovery has created a good foundation for restart of the Reform Programme. We hope all GDS practices will want to be part of the collaborative effort to reform the GDS and take up the offer of joining the GDS Reform Programme on 1st of April 2021.

What does this mean for my practice?

We know this is a uncertain and worrying time and we appreciate the work being done by all teams across Wales. At the moment we ask you carry on working in line with current guidance and the Welsh SOP.

There will be a time for a decision to be made about joining the GDS Reform Programme. Practices who were in the Reform Programme have experience of working to meet the expectations in line with the reform objectives. We will run webinars and sharing plenty of information about what this will mean to you and your practice.

We know practices will have questions around payment, and what needs to be delivered instead of Units of Dental Activities, monitoring that will be in place etc. Delivery expectations under the GDS Reform Programme will be shared with you soon and a robust structure and Programme Management approach to support the work needed is being set up. We will be producing monthly updates like this, capturing questions and feedback you have and using them to help inform the Programme.

Training, support & updates

Primary Care One will host information on the GDS Programme to date and the restart planning updates
<https://primarycareone.nhs.wales/topics1/dental-public-health/dental-reform/>

The **All Wales Faculty of Dental Care Professionals** will support communication from Welsh Government on the Recovery of Dental services in Wales <https://awfdcp.ac.uk/>

HEIW has developed a fantastic suite of training to support practices during this period of uncertainty. The offer of online CPD is continuing to expand, and an ongoing range of courses and provision can be found on the website:

<https://www.maxcourse.co.uk/walesdent/guestCourseCalendar.asp>

You are encouraged to visit these sites regularly to check for updates.

QAS will open on 14 December 2020. Closing date 28 February 2021. Your username and password will be communicated soon via email this year – please look out for an email from Kate Eyre.

What do I need to do?

Please ensure you submit FP17Ws promptly.

As you know the UDA activity targets have been suspended. However, Welsh Government and Health Boards will be benchmarking the numbers of unique patients seen, to give assurance that the investment made, is supporting recovery of dental delivery as intended in line with necessary SOP requirements and our vision for more preventive, needs-led dentistry. These data will be shared and reviewed with Health Boards and practices, together with the ACORN findings, over the next couple of months and will be used to support decision making during quarter 4. Hence, it is important to not hold back any FP17Ws that can be submitted.

Use the new eDEN portal

Register and log into eDEN, you can check in real time how your practice is doing and ensure your data is being submitted correctly. eDEN will allow you to:

- access dental data faster;
- manage user friendly reports;
- refresh and export dashboards and flat data tables;
- view data visualisations.

You can register via this email : nhsbsa.dentalinsight@nhs.net

Keep informed

Welsh Government will communicate information via Health Boards, All Wales Faculty for Dental Care Professionals, HEIW, PHW, and the Welsh Dental Committee.

We ask that you regularly check your emails and the links provided to ensure you are up-to-date with current developments.

Be involved

We welcome feedback and questions. We may not have all the answers yet – in fact we most definitely won't if they are related to work yet to be done **BUT** we capture the questions and use them to inform our programme and communication (e.g. FAQ documents, webinars, engagement events). So please, keep asking questions and giving us your feedback – you can send these to Kate Kate.Eyre@wales.nhs.uk.