

Dental Board Briefing

A quarterly top line information sheet for PCT board members produced by NHS Primary Care Contracting in conjunction with the Department of Health.



Primary Care Contracting

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Introduction

There have been a number of significant developments across a range of areas in NHS dentistry since the first issue of the Dental Board Bulletin was published in December 2007. Issue two sets out to summarise these and to signpost PCTs to relevant sources of new reference and information, such as briefing documentation and guidance.

New horizons mean new challenges for commissioners

PCTs are currently working to meet a range of simultaneous objectives:

- to deliver high quality, cost effective services offering sustainable choice to patients closer to where they live
- to support Practice Based Commissioners in their commissioning plans
- to support local providers and practitioners in delivering the services needed
- to adhere to the new World Class Commissioning and Equitable Access agendas.

In the sphere of dentistry, PCTs are required to achieve year-on-year improvements in access to NHS dentistry against a baseline of their access levels at March 2006. PCC has held a series of events around the country, and a number of individual PCTs are being offered targeted support to help them identify ways to improve access through better commissioning. This remains the major strategic challenge for PCTs with regard to dentistry.

At the same time, PCTs also have a role in delivering and sustaining the 18 week referral to treatment pathway. 18 weeks presents a challenge for local health economies both in terms of the immediate demand to meet the goal by December 2008, and ensuring it is commissioned in a sustainable manner. The 18 weeks target has a direct impact on dentistry owing to the important relationship between orthodontic provision in primary and secondary dental care – and PCTs will need to consider the provision of orthodontics in primary care, as well as secondary care, in order to meet it. This topic is covered in more depth later in this issue.



DDRB announces dental uplift

The Government has recently announced it has accepted the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body (DDRB) recommendations in full this year. This means that high street dentists across England will receive a 3.4 per cent gross uplift in their fees. The increase is intended to produce a 2.2 per cent net (after expenses, before tax) uplift in income.

To read the DDRB for 2008 report in full go to: www.ome.uk.com/downloads/DDRB%20report.pdf

The new SFEs are now available at: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/Chiefprofessionalofficers/Chiefdentallofficer/DH_073891

Looking after the dependants of armed forces personnel

NHS PCC is working closely with the DH and the MoD to monitor and address the specific difficulties faced by forces families. While it is generally acknowledged that the bulk of the problem is focused on the 15 PCTs in which the forces are mainly based, there are also dependants in other areas of the country who are having similar difficulties. It is also recognised that all PCTs will inevitably have a number of 'invisible' forces families - namely often naval dependents - who are not mobile and could therefore be living anywhere whilst their naval relative is away at work.

To assist PCTs in monitoring and targeting dental services provision to these groups, NHS PCC has launched a new web page at:

www.primarycarecontracting.nhs.uk/278

Content currently includes an example of a letter that Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT have provided to the military commander in their area, giving details of how service personnel and their dependents can access services both urgently and routinely through a local dental practice. The same PCT has also issued a poster for display in military medical premises, which again is available to download via the PCC website.

Other PCTs are providing services for forces families in, or very close to military bases.

The new page also included a downloadable pdf of a useful document called Location of regular forces in the UK containing details of where UK regular forces are stationed in the British Isles.

NHS Information Centre (IC) launches Dental Workforce Data Review

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care is launching a public consultation on the most appropriate method of counting NHS dentists. The consultation went live on 16 May and will run for eight weeks. All key stakeholders including the BDA have been invited to give views.

Following the consultation the IC will decide on a methodology for the dental headcount and will apply that methodology to the workforce data for 2007/08 and for the previous nine years. The resulting new data will be published in August by the IC.

Other upcoming reports include NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 3: 31 December 2007.

For more information see:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data/collections/primary-care/dentistry

Patient information on NICE antibacterial prophylaxis guidance

The Department of Health and NICE strongly encourage PCTs to download a copy of CG64 Prophylaxis against infective endocarditis: understanding NICE guidance and to make printed copies available for patients in all dental practices. The document is a summary for patients and their carers of the changes recommended by NICE in March 2008. It can be downloaded at:

www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=download&o=40015



Secretary of State speaks at national fluoride conference

On 22 May, Alan Johnson, Secretary of State (pictured below) delivered a 15 minute speech to the National Fluoride Information Conference at the University of Manchester. The theme of the conference was 'Can we reduce dental inequalities in children?' Mr Johnson reinforced the government's confidence in fluoridation and his personal support for it, subject to local consultation in the context of the local decision making on fluoridation.



To read the CDO's letter to the NHS of February 05 2008 encouraging SHAs and PCTs to consider fluoridation to reduce inequalities in oral health, please see:
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_082666

Care Quality Commission Consultation

The Health and Social Care Bill introduced to Parliament in November 2007 will, subject to Parliamentary approval, pave the way for the establishment of the proposed new integrated health and adult social care regulator: the Care Quality Commission. From April 2009 it will take over the functions of the Healthcare Commission, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) and the Mental Health Act Commission (MHAC).

To this end, on 25 March, the DH launched a consultation on the framework for the registration of health and adult social care providers, including those providing primary medical care and primary dental care. The consultation seeks views on which services should fall within the scope of registration, how primary care could be included, and the requirements service providers will have to meet in order to be able to provide regulated services.

To read the consultation in full, please see:
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_083625

Delivering 18 weeks

The 18 Weeks referral to treatment pathway is about improving patients' experience of the NHS – ensuring all patients receive high quality elective care without unnecessary delay. 18 weeks applies to pathways that do or might involve consultant-led care, setting a maximum time of 18 weeks from the point of initial referral up to the start of any necessary treatment where it is clinically appropriate and where patients want it.

There are no short cuts - in order to deliver 18 weeks in dentistry, PCTs must consider the provision of specialist services in primary care, as well as secondary care capacity, and it is likely that a total service redesign may be required with agreed local patient pathways.

The role of NHS PCC in current and future support activity

In order to support PCTs in the countdown to the 18 Weeks deadline of December 2008, NHS PCC ran three national dental learning events that took place between March and April in Manchester, Birmingham and London. They were attended by almost 400 delegates, including clinicians and commissioners from both primary and secondary care settings. Feedback to the events has been very positive, with 96% of attendees ranking the presentations as either excellent or good. All the presentations are available on the Events page of the NHS PCC website. Notes of themes and topics that came out of the afternoon workshops will be posted shortly.



Looking Ahead: ongoing joint work with the 18 weeks team

Part of the NHS PCC's dental work programme consists of continuing to work in close conjunction with the DH dental and 18 Weeks teams to further support PCTs as they move into implementing 18 Weeks on an ongoing basis.

Workstreams will include:

- Add further examples of good practice to the newly published orthodontic commissioning pathways
- Supporting the DH 18 Weeks team and Intensive Support Team in the provision of bespoke advice to individual PCTs
- One to one assistance to PCTs in finalising local protocols, policies and plans
- Collating examples of good practice from around the country for publication on the 18 Weeks website

Monitoring the 18 Weeks online dental forum
Reviewing dental Referral to Treatment (RTT) data on a quarterly basis

Please see the following publications for further information and recommendations:

Support for Commissioners and Providers

Two key papers have been issued by the DH to complement the generic guidance and rules for 18 Weeks to explain how the principles and rules of 18 Weeks apply to dental specialties: "Applying 18 Week Rules to Dental Specialties" and "Delivering 18 Weeks in Dentistry: Maximum Impact – Shorter Pathways." To read these papers in full, see www.18weeks.nhs.uk/Content.aspx?path=/achieve-and-sustain/Commissioning-and-primary-care/Primary-care/Dentistry

Orthodontic Commissioning Pathway -

following the consensus event in February 2008, plus further feedback and discussion from the recent learning events, the orthodontic commissioning pathway has now been published on the 18 weeks website. The pathway includes examples of good practice, links to other key sources of information and further clarity regarding clock starts and stops specific to orthodontics. To read the pathway in full, see www.18weeks.nhs.uk/Content.aspx?path=/achieve-and-sustain/Specialty-focussed-areas/Oral-and-Maxillofacial-surgery-orthodontics/orthodontics

18 weeks online bulletin – published monthly, this bulletin carries information and updates on dental aspects of 18 Weeks. The April edition includes an article with Tony Jenner, Deputy CDO, exploring various aspects of the 18 weeks agenda. Future issues are scheduled to include case studies and examples of good practice as well as news updates. See

www.18weeks.nhs.uk/Content.aspx?path=/News-and-Comment/hot-seat/Tony-Jenner

Contractual Levers for 18 week Pathways

This paper has been written to help commissioners, primary care managers and clinicians consider how to meet 18 Weeks and links to more detailed directions and guidance underpinning primary care contracting on both NHS PCC and DH websites. It also looks at tools and processes to support primary care commissioning, working towards realising World Class Commissioning.

See

www.18weeks.nhs.uk/Content.aspx?path=/achieve-and-sustain/Specialty-focussed-areas/Oral-and-Maxillofacial-surgery-orthodontics/dental-pain

Strategic Commissioning of Primary Care Orthodontic Services

(Gateway No. 7105) provides advice on needs assessment and strategic reviews of primary care orthodontics. See: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4139176

For further information, contact Peter Stylianou, PCC Advisor, @ peter.stylianou@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Recent dental briefings, guidance and advice notes

DH revised year end guidance

DH has issued guidance for PCTs called NHS Dentistry - Revised Guidance: primary care dental contracts. Advice on managing end of year issues. It is available on the DH website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_084448



New NHS PCC advice note published: PCTs' powers regarding contractor changes

This NHS PCC advice note focuses specifically on the powers that PCTs have regarding changes to contracts and contractual status and looks at the types of changes that PCTs might commonly come across include:

- Retirement, (including 24 hour retirement)
- Death of a practitioner
- Sale of a practice
- Change of ownership
- Change from sole practitioner to partnership
- Dissolution or termination of a partnership
- Incorporation
- Novation [DN not included in table]
- Change from PDS to GDS

Advice is also included on contracting with Limited Liability Partnerships and Dental Bodies Corporate.

To read the advice paper in full, please see:

http://www.primarycarecontracting.nhs.uk/uploads/Dentistry/May%2008/pct_powers_regarding_contractor_changes.pdf

Latest payscale for dentally qualified Clinical Educators published

The payscale for dentally qualified Clinical Educators for 2008/09

is now available on the DH website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/Chiefprofessionalofficers/Chiefdentallofficer/DH_4134424

Looking ahead

Outcomes of the Dental Reference Service review

During 2007 the NHS Business Services Authority Dental Services Division (DSD) carried out a fundamental review of the Dental Reference Service (DRS), to consider how it might best support primary care trusts (PCTs), the profession and the public in assuring the quality of NHS primary dental services and in making best use of the available clinical resource. Feedback from a range of key stakeholders, including strategic health authorities (SHAs), PCTs and practitioners, was considered alongside the Government's principles of better regulation – namely that any regulation should be consistent, transparent, accountable, targeted and proportionate.

A full report will be appearing in the June issue of CDO Update, an electronic version of which will be published on the CDO pages of the DH website. The article will also be posted on the PCC website.

National events – implementing the preventive toolkit in practice

DH is planning three national events in the Autumn for both PCTs and local dental representatives to look at how best the "Preventive Toolkit" Delivering Better Oral Health may be implemented. The events will be run in conjunction with Colgate and more details will be announced shortly.

Fluoride varnish – pilot project to be launched

A DH pilot project is currently being developed in conjunction with Hounslow PCT and the BDA to provide children with fluoride varnish. Following further work, it is likely that fluoride varnish applications will be launched with a single nurse operating from a pharmacy within a single Asda store later this year, but could be extended to other areas later. More details to follow.

Improving oral health in black and minority ethnic groups

The inaugural meeting has been held of a group, which will be looking at how oral health in black and ethnic minority groups can be improved including the oral health of economic migrants from Eastern Europe. These groups contribute to many of the inequalities in dental health and the guidance should be published towards the end of the year. Dr Ros Hamburger, Consultant in Dental Public Health for Birmingham is chairing the group.

Decontamination Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 01-05:

Decontamination in Dental Practice

Decontamination Health Technical Memorandum 01-05: Decontamination in Dental Practice will shortly be available to the profession. Based on a developmental approach, the HTM looks for continuous improvement in standards around decontamination and aims raise the awareness of decontamination in practice. Emphasis is placed on staff training and development and the demonstration of competencies. The importance of procedures and protocols is stressed to ensure that decontamination is carried out to acceptable standards consistently and that this can be demonstrated.



This guidance will be published on the DH website, with a link posted on the NHS PCC website.

Improving the evidence base around decontamination

During the summer, the Department will be conducting a survey of current decontamination practices around the country. This will provide a detailed understanding of current practice, to ensure future improvements are relevant to the needs of practitioners.

Commissioning NHS dental services for rural communities

The Commission for Rural Communities is working closely with DH and PCC to address the specific issues of around commissioning NHS dental services for PCTs with rural areas within their constituency. Two events are currently being planned for later this year with the objective of sharing innovative practice amongst PCTs who are interested in improving quality and access to dental services in rural areas. It is anticipated that, by learning from others, PCTs looking to adopt effective solutions will be inspired to take up the challenge. The events will take the form of a keynote opening speech followed by round table discussions and site visits so PCTs can witness good practice in action. More details to follow in due course.

Forthcoming publications

Final Health Select Committee report

Following a Health Select Committee inquiry into Dental Services that took place on March 6 at the House of Commons, a full report is due to be published during June shortly. Further details will be made available on the DH and NHS Primary Care Contracting websites. To find out more about the inquiry and to watch a broadcast the session, please see:

www.parliamentlive.tv/Main/VideoPlayer.aspx?meetingId=1269&rel=ok

Pandemic Flu guidance

In consultation with key stakeholders, the DH is due to produce three new sets of guidance around pandemic flu:

- Guidance to PCTs around cross-infection issues in primary care dental practice
- Guidance to PCTs around contractual issues that may impact during a Pandemic
- Guidance to primary care dental practices on both cross-infection issues and planning needed in the eventuality of a influenza pandemic.

DH anticipates that all the new pandemic flu guidance will be published shortly. Full details will also be appearing on the DH and NHS PCC websites shortly.

About NHS Primary Care Contracting (NHS PCC)

NHS PCC comprises of a small, national team who work closely with PCTs to help them assimilate the need for change and then implement it effectively. Highly experienced and technically expert across all areas of primary care contracting, our team are: responsive to the needs of PCTs

- on hand to provide instant support where and when it is needed
- able to develop tailored individual support to meet local needs

For further information, see: www.pcc.nhs.uk where both NHS PCC Eye Care and Dental Board Bulletins are available electronically.

Have you found this bulletin useful?

PCC welcomes input and suggestions for improving the briefing papers and publications we produce as well as the support we offer. We also welcome ideas for new publications that would be helpful to SHAs and PCTs. Please email any feedback to our Communications Lead, Julia Battersby on: julia.battersby@pcc.nhs.uk. Please also use this email address to request regular copies of NHS PCC Dental Board Bulletin.