

General Dental Services – Monthly News Sheet

February 2018

Dental Working Patterns Survey 2016/17 and 2017/18

NHS Digital would like to invite you to participate in the latest survey of dentists' working patterns, motivation and morale. The survey's findings are of benefit to you because they are considered by the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (DDRB) in its deliberations on pay and expenses. Invitations are being sent out on 1 February 2018 to all primary care dentists who performed some Health Service dentistry in 2016/17 and/or 2017/18. The British Dental Association (BDA) and the Department of Health, Northern Ireland fully endorse this survey and encourage you to participate.

The survey is being conducted on-line and can be accessed by clicking on the following link;

www.hscic.gov.uk/dwps/welcome

The survey takes only a few minutes to complete and guidance notes are available should you need them. Please note, for personal verification purposes, you will need your General Dental Council (GDC) number to begin. We kindly request you complete the survey as soon as possible and by **Monday 12th March** at the latest. Thank you in advance for taking part.

Raising Awareness of Antimicrobial Stewardship

Further to the DOH letter of 15th December 2017

(<http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/pdf/DoH%20professional%20letter%20post%20EAAD%202017.pdf>) HSCB and DoH would encourage all dentists to make a pledge to become an antibiotic guardian. Northern Ireland is the highest antibiotic user of all the UK nations, with 1.9 million prescriptions issued by GPs and dentists during 2016. This equates to approximately one course of antibiotics for each person in the population, which is significantly higher than the prescribing rates observed in England, Scotland and Wales during the same time period.

You can become an antibiotic guardian by logging on at www.antibioticguardian.com. You can also encourage colleagues, family, friends and patients to join almost 50,000 individuals who have personally pledged an action to help to tackle antimicrobial resistance by choosing a pledge at the Antibiotic Guardian website.



****Immunisations for GDS Practitioners and their Staff****

We wish to remind all General Dental Practitioners that the Department of Health has an agreement with HSC Trusts for the provision of Occupational Health Services to GDS Dental Practitioners and their directly employed staff. This includes all relevant immunisations, health clearances and sickness absence referrals. The provision of work-related immunisation consistent with guidance contained in Department of Health's publication '*The Green Book*' is not provided under the GMS contract by doctors working in general medical practice.

For further information on the range of services offered by your local Occupational Health Trust, or to access Occupational Health Services please see the respective Trust's website.

Feedback: We would appreciate your comments and/or queries regarding the Monthly News Sheet. Please send them by email to: GDSEMonthlyNewsSheet@hscni.net or telephone 028 9536 2823.

****£1 Million REVENUE GRANT SCHEME 2017/18 for GDS Practices****

GDS Practices in Northern Ireland should be on the alert for a letter from HSCB with the offer of a grant allocation under the Revenue Grant Scheme for 2017/18. There is a very limited period to claim this grant so we recommend that practices follow the scheme instructions contained in the letter. If practices have any queries in relation to this scheme, or have not received a letter, please email: RevenueGrantScheme@hscni.net.

****CHAIR OF THE DENTAL COMMITTEE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND BUSINESS SERVICES ORGANISATION****

The Department of Health is looking for an experienced Dental Practitioner to lead the Dental Committee of the Business Services Organisation.

The Chair of the Committee will have to devote around 26 days per annum to the appointment and will be expected to ensure that the Committee bases its decisions against agreed standards and guidance in order to deliver evidence based and cost effective outcomes. To this end, the Chair will be required to oversee the development of a protocol to ensure such outcomes. In performing the role, opportunities for personal and professional development arise through contacts with HSC bodies, the Department and other professions.

Remuneration is £5,720 per annum, with travel and other allowances also payable.

If feel you could make a positive contribution to the work of the Dental Committee, please write or telephone for a nomination form and further details about the appointment, quoting reference number BSO 2/18 to:

General Dental and Ophthalmic Services Branch
Department of Health, Room D3, Castle Buildings
Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SQ

Telephone: (028) 90520014

E-mail: gdocorrespondence@Health-ni.gov.uk

Completed nomination forms must be received at the above address by 5pm on Tuesday 6th March 2018.

Further information can be found on the BSO website at: <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2369.htm>

Practices are reminded of the benefits of the FPPS Dental Portal

- ◆ Access to the Health and Care index
- ◆ Access to top sheets, payment summary and schedules
- ◆ Search facility for specific claims with visible claim status
- ◆ Attachment of digital images for prior approval requests

Hands-On Training to the Portal

The HSCB/BSO will offer a series of training sessions in the coming months on the benefits of using the portal. This training will be initially offered to those practices that have submitted their portal user agreements and accessed the system.

Help and Support

For help and support using the system for the first time contact the ebusiness team by email on eBusiness@hscni.net or by phone on 028 9536 3751 or 028 9536 3681.

You can also access help, downloadable forms and user guides from the BSO website at the following link: <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2772.htm>

Prior Approval

A sample of practices is about to trial the use of the portal for prior approval requests. The results will be shared in a later edition of the News Sheet.