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Cymru (AaGIC)
Health Education and
Improvement Wales (HEIW)

Dental Foundation Training Arrangements in Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Postgraduate Dental Dean's Update

02 April 2020

This guidance follows the most recent guidance issued by Welsh Government (Red Alert letter dated 23rd March and Red Phase Guidance also dated 23rd March, both of which have been redistributed to you with this communication).

Events continue to move at pace and Covid-19 has had a significant effect on NHS primary care dentistry.

Educational Supervisors and practice owners are required to provide regular updates to their TPD on the following:

- Confirm the services expected of their FDs if they are attending the practice to provide key healthcare work in with the national guidance and the level of supervision available to them. This should be part of a recorded risk assessment carried out by the employer.
- The contact the ES will be maintaining with the FD(s). It is important that the FD remains linked to the practice team.
- Notify their TPD in advance of any proposed changes to the FD's arrangements
- Whether practices are working in accordance with the national guidance or what other arrangements are in place.
- What activity is currently being undertaken by the FD, whether within the practice or elsewhere (role and number of days). It is not expected that FDs will substitute roles for staff recently made redundant or laid-off by their employer or for those supported by the government Covid-19 employment retention scheme.
- Confirm the location of their FD(s) during working hours when not required in the practice. FDs are not expected to remain at the practice if there is no work for them to do. In this case FDs should follow the national guidance on safe working, including remaining at home.

Foundation Dentists are required to provide regular updates to their TPD on the following:

- What activity (clinical or other) they are undertaking and where that is taking place (including the maintenance of a detailed record of the activity by the FD).
- Their latest contact details (address, email, telephone, etc.) if there is any change.
- Work with their TPD on identifying learning opportunities linked to Dental Foundation Training. The Associate Dean for DFT is working together with the TPDs to maximise the range of resources available locally and nationally.
- Discuss with their TPD any proposal to change their activity and obtain authorisation before any substantive changes (e.g. change in role, relocation) take place.
- Notify their TPD if they are living away from their Local Office area (HEIW) so that the Postgraduate Dental Dean in the area where they are living can be informed.
- Make contact with the Postgraduate Dental Dean in the area where they are living so that their skill can be utilised to support the NHS in that area.

FDs must also respond to a weekly communication from the RCP Administrator, Rachel Morgan, to supply the requested information regarding weekly activity.

We anticipate that all FDs will be expected to provide some support to the wider NHS within their contracted hours as this becomes necessary. HEIW is currently in discussion with the Health Boards regarding redeployment of the dental team. Please maintain regular contact with your TPD so that you are updated on what you may be asked to do. HEIW will be communicating this by email and the use of MaxCourse.

We realise that there is a lot of uncertainty at present and we are keen to support our both our Foundation Dentists and our training practices at this difficult time and we are asking for your co-operation in enabling us to make best use of our FD workforce.

David Thomas

Postgraduate Dental Dean

Health Education and Improvement Wales