

Health and Social Services Committee

HSS(2)-12-05(p.4a)

Date: Wednesday 23 November 2005

Venue: Committee Rooms 3&4, National Assembly for Wales

Title: The National Health Service (General Dental Services Contracts) (Wales) Regulations 2006; The National Health Service (Personal Dental Services Agreements) (Wales) Regulations 2006; The National Health Service (Dental Charges) (Wales) Regulations 2006 - Points of Clarification and Proposed Amendments raised by Members

The Committee is scrutinising the Regulations in accordance with the protocol for dealing with secondary legislation agreed by the Committee on 11 June 2003 (Paper HSS(2)-01-03(p2c)), whereby members notify in advance any queries they have or amendments they wish to make. Two amendments have been proposed and eleven points of clarification have been raised.

The National Health Service (General Dental Services Contracts) (Wales) Regulations 2006

Amendment 1 - proposed by Jenny Randerson AM

Schedule 3 Part 1

Paragraph (4) (a) Delete "age" and add new paragraph (b)

"a person's age , except in that it is permissible to give preference to the treatment of those under the age of 18."

Amend paragraph (b) as (c).

Point of Clarification - raised by Jenny Randerson AM

1. Part 5 paragraphs 17(1) and (2) and Paragraph 18(1) and (2)

These refer to the Units of Dental Activity and orthodontic activity which are defined in the regulations.

Paragraph 19 refers to under provision.

What flexibility is there for individual dental practices to increase their levels of activity if they so wish, given that the Explanatory memorandum paragraph 14 refers to the intention to maintain the NHS Dentistry service within current cash limits?

The National Health Service (Dental Charges) (Wales) Regulations 2006

Amendment 2 - proposed by Jenny Randerson AM

After Schedule 3 insert new Schedule 4 to create a fourth band dedicated to preventative care as specified in Band 1(g).

Re-number subsequent Schedules accordingly.

Point of Clarification - raised by Jenny Randerson AM

2. What piloting has occurred and what analysis of the three bands has been undertaken of the results of the pilot scheme?

General Points of Clarification

Welsh Conservative Group

3. What impact will the regulations and the new contract have on the number of patients registered with an NHS dentist?

4. What is the relationship between resources allocated through the Welsh Dental Initiative and those resources supporting PDS?

5. What consideration has been given to the capacity of LHBs in their commissioning role?

Plaid Cymru

6. How will funding be allocated to each LHB to address current unmet need?

7. How is unmet need being measured?

8. It is noted that 'primary dental care will remain 'catchment' based rather than provided only for residents of the LHB'. How is the Minister ensuring cross-working across LHBs to meet this provision?

9. How do these regulations affect the frequency of check-ups?

10. What pilot schemes have been held?

11. How might charging bands be changed in future?

Committee Service

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