

January 2023

EPro Dental

(part of Emerald Professionals Ltd)



Welcome from Ravi Rattan

"We are entering a period of uncertainty and change which needs careful consideration to minimize risk and adverse impacts on our professional lives and equally of our practices and practice teams. Professional guidance and support will be most valuable at this time supported by robust internal procedures to introduce change with success and demonstrate the delivery of safe, appropriate and high dental quality services."



NHS

The Health and Social Care Committee would be holding an Inquiry into NHS dentistry, looking specifically at contract reform and recruitment and retention

CQC

"We had said that we would introduce our new assessment approach for providers in January 2023. Following a full review of our timeline we have decided this will not happen until later in 2023".

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EPro Dental—Introduction

We start the year with many things on the dental horizon including the reducing provision of NHS dentistry, recruitment problems, contract reform and increasing scrutiny from the regulatory and commissioning bodies as well the introduction of integrated care boards.



This will bring many challenges and concerns for both independent practices and corporate groups with a need to have a robust processes place to understand / implement the changes and minimize any associated risks.

The Director of Emerald Professionals and founder of EPro Dental is Ravi Rattan who has over 35 years of experience in dentistry. His experience includes

- Principal of independent practices (NHS/ Private)
- Over 20 years of dental –legal experience
- Dental Adviser to NHSE
- Clinical Director with corporate/groups
- Managing poor personal and professional performance
- Risk minimization strategies and practice development





Integrated Care Systems and Integrated Care Boards

Integrated Care Board (ICB) are statutory organisations bringing the NHS together locally to improve population health and establish shared strategic priorities. Their key roles are

- Improving outcomes in population health and healthcare.
- Tackling inequalities in outcomes, experience and access.
- Enhancing productivity and value for money.
- Helping the NHS to support broader social and economic development.

Impact for dentistry

New commissioners and potential changes in contracting arrangements

Introduction of new and different ways of providing dental services

Potentially the lifting of protection of the dental budget

“ New commissioners setting new ways of ways of using budget based on local priorities and needswhat does this mean for dental services “



Advantages

- *The profession will be engaged in major policy initiative that could lead to missed opportunities in terms of funding, or developing closer working relationships with other care sectors.*
- *Increased influence for dentistry and influence how health and social care is funded and delivered locally.*
- *Recognition of the need for a more comprehensive and cohesive approach to tackle clinical activity and integrate dentistry into wider healthcare agenda*
- *Opportunity to establish a better way of funding dentistry recognising current and future trends in oral health and disease.*

Disadvantages

- *Commissioners need to agree how to commission for the new care models without ‘unnecessary cost and complexity and the prospect of legal challenge’.*
- *The requirement for dentistry to be accountable to a wider policy and introduces potential changes to autonomy and clinical freedom in dentistry*
- *Individual dental practices may lose independence in becoming part of a larger federation of dental practices. Changes may have an impact on private practice and private income.*
- *Dental practitioners may be affected by new working arrangements that seek to establish multi-disciplinary integrated teams resulting in potential issues for clinical accountability and clinical leadership.*
- *Increased training to support new roles for dentists.*

Well Being Support

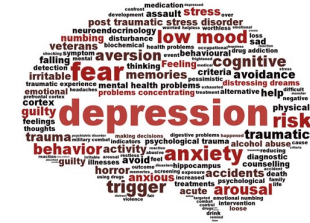
It is well recognised that there are an increasing number of dentists and other members experiencing

- Personal difficulties
- Professional difficulties and loss of professional confidence
- Loss of professional direction
- Well being and mental issues

The early warning signs are

- Feeling anxious
- Being negative about everything in your life and feeling low
- Feeling withdrawn and withdrawing from society
- Finding yourself in emotional distress with regularity
- Feeling like your life is out of control, or having thoughts and feelings that are very out of character
- Having a strong sense of just not feeling your normal self

For support contact us at <https://www.eprodental.co.uk/contact>



“ NHS dental services are not addressing local needs.....one size cannot fit all

NHS contract reform– opportunities

The CDO in July 2022 laid down the pathway to allow for changes in the contracting arrangements for NHS providers.

There are opportunities to engage with NHS commissioning teams to use monies from practice contracts to provide alternative services based on local need rather than Units of Dental Activity. This is known as flexible commissioning. There are a number of factors that determine what percentage of monies within your contract can be translated to non UDA NHS activity.

Flexible commissioning allows for local needs and priorities to be addressed and provide valuable to patients unable to access particular dental care. The initiatives that are currently being considered under flexible commissioning are

- Increased access including OOH services
- Care for the homeless
- Domiciliary Services
- Oral Health Promotion and Prevention activity
- Community activity



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