

Dear Colleagues,

Good weather for the garden!! This could be the second letter that you receive from the LDC, as the GDC have offered to send out any correspondence that we would like cascaded to those practitioners who have a Somerset postcode. This will hopefully allow us to pick up any e mail addresses for those we do not have, and thus keep you informed of relevant news. Unfortunately the GDC will not send out any attachments.

There is good progress towards opening the next hubs and supplying them with PPE and the fit testing thereof. Dentists seem keen to support these but there is much more reticence amongst the dental nurses and receptionists. Please remind them that the main reason that they are being paid, if in a mainly NHS practice, is money from the NHS. Some research carried out by Devon LDC shows an ever increasing need for urgent treatment and the need for more hubs. This is based on the assumption that only 8% of this need is being met. Some simple figures obtained indicate that approx. 60 referrals to Dorset hubs and 50 to the Somerset ones have been returned as inappropriate. If you need to prescribe a second full course of antibiotics because the problem has not resolved, then this brings the case up to a P2 level. If there is any pattern to these returned referrals or any issues which you would like raising then please contact myself or Andre at secretarysomersetldc@gmail.com.

I have been asked to send a reminder about triaging--- it is perfectly acceptable for the telephone call to the practice to be fielded by a receptionist or nurse but the triaging advice itself must be given by the clinician.

Attached to this update is another Q & A document as well as a BDA update for those who are non-members.

Keep well and keep positive.

Best Wishes

Geoff Worrall

Chair Somerset LDC