



The British Dental Association and the British Association of Dental Therapists are becoming increasingly concerned about the number of dental associates, dental therapists and dental hygienists providing NHS care who have not been paid by their principal or practice owner.

The Chief Dental Officers for England and Wales have made it clear that practices should be paying their teams at previous NHS income levels. Whilst largely self-employed, associate dentists, dental therapists and dental hygienists are part of that team, according to a recent survey 44% of BADT members were not receiving their NHS pay.

The CDO for England stated in the Preparedness Letter for Primary Dental Care dated 25 March 2020 that it was “a requirement on practices to ensure that all staff including associates, non-clinical and others continue to be paid at previous levels”.

The Chief Dental Officer of Wales stated that “all practices within GS contracts in Wales have been directed to honour the income generated from NHS delivery for all staff. Anyone who is not receiving this income is advised to contact the Health Board and their professional body”.

All members of the dental team should be paid previous NHS earnings and no member of the team should be excluded from these provisions.

The BDA and BADT remind NHS practices that it is a term of their NHS contract to have regard to the instructions set out by the Chief Dental Officers. NHS England has said it is very concerned that public money may not be reaching its intended recipients and is looking at potential action to be taken. The BDA and BADT strongly recommend all NHS practices follow those instructions.

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