



Communication 3 about 'Adults in Practices survey'

A survey of oral health and service use among adults attending general dental practice,
2017/18

This survey is now well underway with trained fieldwork teams, mainly from community dental services, across the country contacting dental practices and running the survey with volunteer adult patients.

General dental practitioners are encouraged to respond positively if they are contacted by fieldwork teams and host the survey in their practices. Many NHS and private practices have already done this and more are needed to take this welcoming approach. All practices are being asked to do is host a trained fieldwork team of two or three people for a day or so when a surgery is free and the team do the rest.

Mohsan Ahmad, Oldham and Greater Manchester Local Dental Network said :

We welcomed the adult oral health needs team into our practice and there was minimal disruption (I didn't know they were there until I saw them at lunch time). A member of their team approached patients in the waiting room to ask for their participation. Patients were happy to volunteer their time to be part of the survey.

As a principal Dentist in an area where our patients have varying oral health needs, it is really helpful to get a picture of this oral health need. Not only in my area but also neighbouring areas and nationally. By practices welcoming the teams it will help with this assessment and future commissioning of NHS Dental services.

I would encourage Dental practices to volunteer to be part of this essential process.

The survey, which will be completed by June 2018, will provide anonymised information about the dental health and needs of groups of adults in England, and will be used to help commission local services. It is anticipated to involve several thousand practices, which the organisers are selecting to approach in order to provide the most representative population samples locally and nationally.

Patients in participating practices attending for an appointment with their dentist will be asked to volunteer to fill in a questionnaire and have a brief examination of their teeth by a visiting dentist from the survey team. Those attending for NHS treatment will also be asked if the survey team can collect some information from their treatment form. This can be easily and safely retrieved by practice admin staff.

All participating practices, whether NHS or private, are eligible to claim an honorarium of "no less than £190" as a thank you for hosting the survey team. Practices will need to claim from their local Clinical Research Network, and should ask the visiting fieldwork team for further details.

The BDA, FGDP(UK), NHS England and other agencies have been involved in the planning process with Public Health England. They are encouraging dental practices to participate in order to maximise the quality of the data generated. Support at executive level has been given by the myDentist, BUPA / Oasis and Rodericks groups and notices have gone to their practices encouraging them to host the survey.

Detailed information has been published which should answer any questions or concerns that GDPs may have about the survey and this can be by just clicking on the link here:

<https://www.bda.org/news-centre/latest-news-articles/Pages/Public-Health-England-new-survey-of-adults-attending-general-dental-practice.aspx>