

## **GUIDANCE FOR NHS DENTAL COMMISSIONING (DC01) STATISTICS**

### **What is the Dental Commissioning return (DC01)?**

The DC01 return reports the amount of dental activity commissioned by NHS England Area Teams (ATs) for the next 12 months. It is measured in Units of Dental Activity (UDAs) and collected on a quarterly basis.

### **How often is the information collected and published?**

The return is collected four times a year, reporting the UDAs commissioned for the next 12 months as at 30<sup>th</sup> June, 30<sup>th</sup> September, 31<sup>st</sup> December and 31<sup>st</sup> March.

- 30th June return reports on UDAs in signed contracts as at 30th June that are to be provided between 1st July and 30th June the following year. This return is usually published in August.
- 30th September return reports on UDAs in signed contracts as at 30th September that are to be provided between 1st October and 30th September the following year. The report for this quarter is published in November.
- 31st December return reports on UDAs in signed contracts as at 31st December that are to be provided between 1st January and 31st December the following year. This report will be published in February.
- 31st March return reports on UDAs in signed contracts as at 31st March that are to be provided between 1st April and 31st March the following year. This report will be published in May.

### **What is the DC01 report used for?**

This return on activity commissioned for the next 12 months provides leading edge information on the growth in numbers of patients seen to be expected from each Area Team over that period. The DC01 is also used to monitor commissioning trends and query where large changes are seen.

### **What data items are reported?**

Area Teams are required to report on the following items:

- a) UDAs commissioned for the next 12 months, broken down between:
  - UDAs commissioned in contracts which are delivering services i.e. contacts that are operational and delivering dental care.
  - UDAs commissioned in contracts not yet delivering services (which covers UDAs in new contracts or extensions to existing contracts where the new contracts or extensions have been signed but where the dental provision has not yet started).

### **What dental services are covered in the Dental Commissioning (DC01) return?**

- All primary care General Dental Services (GDS) and Personal Dental Services (PDS) contracts.
- UDAs in vocational trainee contracts.

- UDAs that were commissioned to practices that are currently Dental Contract Pilot Practices.

#### **What dental services are not covered in the Dental Commissioning return?**

- Contracted activity for Trust-Led Dental Services (TDS)/Community Dental Services (CDS)/ Salaried services.
- Orthodontic activity (UOAs).
- Activity carried over into the next financial year (carry forward).
- Contracts that have closed as at the reporting date.

#### **What was the outcome from a quality checking exercise which took place May to June this year (2014)?**

The quality checking exercise highlighted a number of Area Teams had been incorrectly including some of their CDS/TDS/salaried contracts in the dental commissioning figures. Confusion occurred due to some CDS/TDS/salaried contracts having Units of Dental Activity attributed to them and were automatically included in the commissioned UDA counts.

The decision to exclude the UDAs commissioned through CDS/TDS/Salaried contracts was made in 2011 due to inconsistent data across the country.

#### **Where can I find previously published results?**

Published figures on the current and previously published reports can be found here:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/category/statistics/dental-commissioning/>

Dental commissioning figures should be compared to the same period on previous years in order to take account of seasonality. Please note that there were revisions made to the reporting methodology from June 2014 and comparisons to previous years should be treated with caution.

For further enquiries regarding the DC01 publication, please contact us on:  
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