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### **NHS Dental Prototypes: Positive but 'teething issues'**

The National Association of Specialist Dental Accountants and Lawyers met at their recent biannual meeting and heard an update from Martin Woodrow, BDA Director of Member Services in regard to the new NHS Dental Prototypes.

The prototypes were announced in 2015 and saw major changes in the way that the majority of remuneration is delivered. It is a blended system with a prototype practice's contract value split between capitation and activity.

Two different types of prototype contracts have been introduced:

Type 1 - capitation will be used as the basis of remuneration for what is currently in band 1 care plus prevention, with activity payments being used for treatments currently in bands 2 and 3.

Type 2 - capitation will be used as the basis of remuneration for what is currently in band 1 and band 2 care plus prevention, with activity payments being used for treatments currently in band 3.

The NASDAL meeting heard that there had been widespread support for the concept of a move away from an activity-based contract towards a prevention approach but that there were a number of 'teething issues.' Martin commented, "Everyone is committed to the philosophy but there have been some initial problems highlighted by the prototypes. Some are having difficulty in keeping patient numbers at a level that works. There are 83 prototypes and we at the BDA have always felt there should be more. If and when the prototypes are rolled out, there would need to be geographic weighting on the capitation element across the UK. However, rollout is some way off."

**ENDS**

Note to editors:

NASDAL, the National Association of Specialist Dental Accountants and Lawyers, was set up in 1998. It is an association of accountants and lawyers who specialise in acting for and looking after the

accounting, tax and legal affairs of dentists. It is the pre-eminent centre of excellence for accounting, tax and legal matters concerning dentists. Its members are required to pass strict admission criteria, and it regulates the performance of its members to ensure high standards of technical knowledge and service.

Images are available of the NASDAL Chairman and NASDAL team.

Nick Ledingham, the Chairman of NASDAL, is available for interview. To organise to speak to him or any other members of NASDAL for more information please contact Chris Baker.

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