



your dental plans

Your practice. Your patients. Your choice.

8 NOVEMBER 2007

Press release

PCT's set to clawback millions of pounds for decaying NHS contracts

Alarming new statistics, uncovered by leading private dental plan administrators DPAS, reveal that almost half (48 percent) of NHS dentists in the UK will face financial penalties which could run into several hundred million pounds.

The research, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, by DPAS Chairman Quentin Skinner, is the first of its kind to give an accurate account of short falls in delivery of the widely criticised General Dental Service Contracts (nGDS).

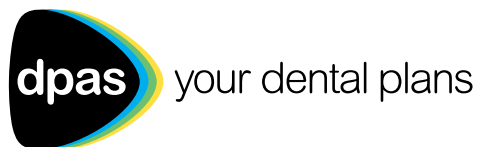
Some eight months into the second year of the nGDS, Mr Skinner's detailed research reports that 48 percent of providers have achieved less than 96 percent of their contractual commitment, the threshold at which PCTs may insist on making a financial recovery.

Whilst some may be sufficiently close to this threshold to be able to agree with their PCT that they can catch up this shortfall in 2007/08, many dentists are seemingly in a much worse position. The research showed that over 11 percent of dentists were short by between 15 percent and 25 percent of their UDA commitment, with a further 11 percent falling behind by a staggering 25 percent.

Worryingly, two PCTs even reported that every single one of their dentist Providers was more than four percent behind resulting in significant financial penalties.

There are without doubt many NHS dentists all over the country who were so behind in the delivery of their UDAs last year that PCTs now have no option other than to insist on clawback. Indeed, they have started doing so, with amounts being demanded running towards 6 figure sums at some practices.

Quentin Skinner comments: "For those who have under-delivered by four percent, the contract allows this to be made up by 31st March 2008 at the latest. Such dentists will have to do perhaps four percent more work for no more money, as well as coping with this year's UDA contract numbers. A far cry from Rosie Winterton's suggestion of "the same money for five percent less work". For those dentists who fell rather shorter of the mark, the future certainly looks bleak. Inevitably, these dentists will have to agree to a mixture of increased workloads for less money, as their Year two revenue is reduced by Year one Clawback, money already spent on last year's running costs and drawings. What a nightmare."



Your practice. Your patients. Your choice.

PRESS RELEASE CONTINUED

**PCT'S SET TO CLAWBACK MILLIONS OF POUNDS
FOR DECAYING NHS CONTRACTS**

But it doesn't stop there, Mr Skinner continues: "For those dentists who fall significantly short, with no particular extenuating circumstances, in addition to short term catch-ups and revenue depleted by Clawback, many of these dentists will find that they have no option other than to agree with the PCT to accept a smaller commitment for numbers of UDAs, for Years two and three and beyond April 2009. Thus they are in a position where, willy nilly, their NHS earnings will be forced downwards in a one-way only direction."

The research carried out by DPAS, together with the published national statistics on the overall total of UDAs delivered against those commissioned, would indicate that, whatever the swings and roundabouts contained within the total figures, clawbacks amounting to hundreds of millions of pounds would appear to be on the cards.