



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Delivery of Orthodontics in Primary Care for 2021 and 2022
in response to the Covid-19 pandemic

Additional guidance
May 2021

This note provides additional clarification and addresses key queries which have been raised relating to the Welsh Government guidance on orthodontics issued 30 March 2021.

- UOAs have been suspended for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years and are not being used as a measure of care delivery.
- Other contractual requirements such as opening hours etc. are extant.
- The case starts required to be completed and measured over the two year period is a pragmatic method of calculating what is required and what the Welsh Government wants providers to focus on using the capacity in the system.
- The number of case starts expected is based on the combined contracted UOAs for 2020-21 and 2021-22 and divided by 22 - with a tolerance level of 5% x 2 i.e. for each year.
- There were significantly fewer case starts in 2020-21 and a reduced number of case completions.

	Jan 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2019	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Mar 2020
Assess/Review	240	63	260	259	317	330
Completions	674	294	671	677	636	614
Case starts	817	115	804	331	965	371

- Case starts for 2020-21 were some 16% on average although there was wide variation between contracts. These case starts will count towards the two year reconciliation at the end of 2021-22.
- Practices who can achieve the measure and/or are on track to achieve the expectations following Quarter 1 & Quarter 2 of 2021-22 (the calculation will also include last year's case starts) can have ACV restored to 100% in Quarter 3 & Quarter 4 of 2021-22.
- Welsh Government accept the measures may be more challenging for some orthodontic providers, particularly where the practice estate makes social distancing more difficult. We have agreed that for these practices there is a 'floor expectation' i.e. to retain 90% of ACV financial support in 2021-22 at least 82.5% of case starts as measured over a two year period is achieved i.e. 55% of case starts in 2021-22 and 27.5% of case starts from 2020-21 (55% divided by 2 for Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 of 2020-21). This lower threshold can be met without penalty but the ACV will remain at 90% for 2021/22.

- The abatement to payments should practices not meet the case start measure after applying the 5% tolerances will be 21 x the value of a UOA in the historic contract agreement for every under-delivered case start.

Welsh Government
31 May 2021