Dental Tribune

The World's Dental Newspaper · United Kingdom Edition

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News in brief

Chemical leak

The town centre in Barnsley in Yorkshire was sealed off for four hours and dental staff were rushed to hospital after a fire caused a chemical leak at a dental surgery. The Dental Studio on Peel Arcade in the town centre was cordoned off and shoppers and workers were evacuated after fears that the chemical which is used to develop X-rays was toxic.

A small fire had broken out at the surgery exposing the chemical waste product to heat and causing it to give off ammonia fumes.

A police spokeswoman said: 'Some of the staff were exposed to the fumes and were experiencing some irritation around the eyes and nose. They were taken to hospital for a precautionary check up but later discharged.'

Fire crews used sand to mop up the chemical and the manufacturer was contacted to collect the fluid.

Knife robber

An man armed with a knife robbed a dental surgery in Surrey. The robber raided the surgery in London Road at lunchtime on 26 January and escaped with an unknown amount of money. A woman in her forties received slight injuries during the raid and was treated at the scene for cuts to her hand.

The robber is a white man in his 20s, who was seen wearing a grey hooded top.

Diploma award

Dr Sarah Glover of the Birdgate Surgery in Pickering, Yorkshire is celebrating after gaining a diploma in restorative dentistry with the Royal College of Surgeons. Dr Glover studied dentistry at Cardiff University and qualified in 1996. Dr Glover said: 'My special interest in this subject has led me to be able to take referrals from other dentists and patients in the area.'

House raffle

A dental technician and his wife are raffling their four-bedroomed house in Devon, with tickets costing just £25. Stephen and Caroline Sickelmore have had their house in Dawlish on the market for £490,000 but after it failed to sell, they have decided to hold an online draw. There is a total of 27,000 tickets at £25 each. The couple have pledged to give 3.6 per cent of the prize fund, up to £25,000, to a cancer charity.

www.dental-tribune.co.uk

News & Opinions

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Young patients who have lost teeth from accidents and sports injuries benefit from permanent implants instead of a bridge.

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Web sense
It makes no difference whether you specialise in treating dental phobics or are the king of perio, you need a fab web site.

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Government 'spin' continues

The Tories have accused the government of spin and distortion, after it claimed access to NHS dentists has improved – based on figures from less than one third of primary care trusts.

> **'This is another example of this government treating the British people like fools'.**

Official figures released at the end of last year show that 1.2m fewer patients saw an NHS dentist in the two years running up to June 2008 than in the last two years under the old contract.

However Anne Keen, the health minister, told Parliament in December that 'there is no question but that access has improved throughout the country'.

The minister has since admitted, in a parliamentary written answer, that she based that claim on figures from less than one third of primary care trusts.

Mike Penning, the shadow health minister called it yet 'another example of this government treating the British people like fools'. He said: 'Their attempt to gloss over their complete failure on dentistry by basing their calculations on just three out of ten areas in England is typical of the sort of spin and distortion we have become used to under Gordon Brown.

But it won't wash. Millions of taxpayers know that Labour are not being straight with them because they or their families are no longer able to see an NHS dentist, to tell them otherwise is an insult to their intelligence.'

A Department of Health spokesperson said: 'In many areas of the country, increased investment, new NHS dental practices and more NHS dentists have already supported increased access. We want to ensure that this progress is reflected all over the country.' DT

Commissioning investigation launch

An independent commission has been set up to investigate the commissioning of oral healthcare in England and Wales.

The group, chaired by Professor Chris Drinkwater, president of the NHS Alliance, is expected to develop a framework for excellence in dental commissioning.

It will also consider the implications of the NHS Next Stage Review for dental services and explore how dentistry can be better integrated into primary and secondary care services.

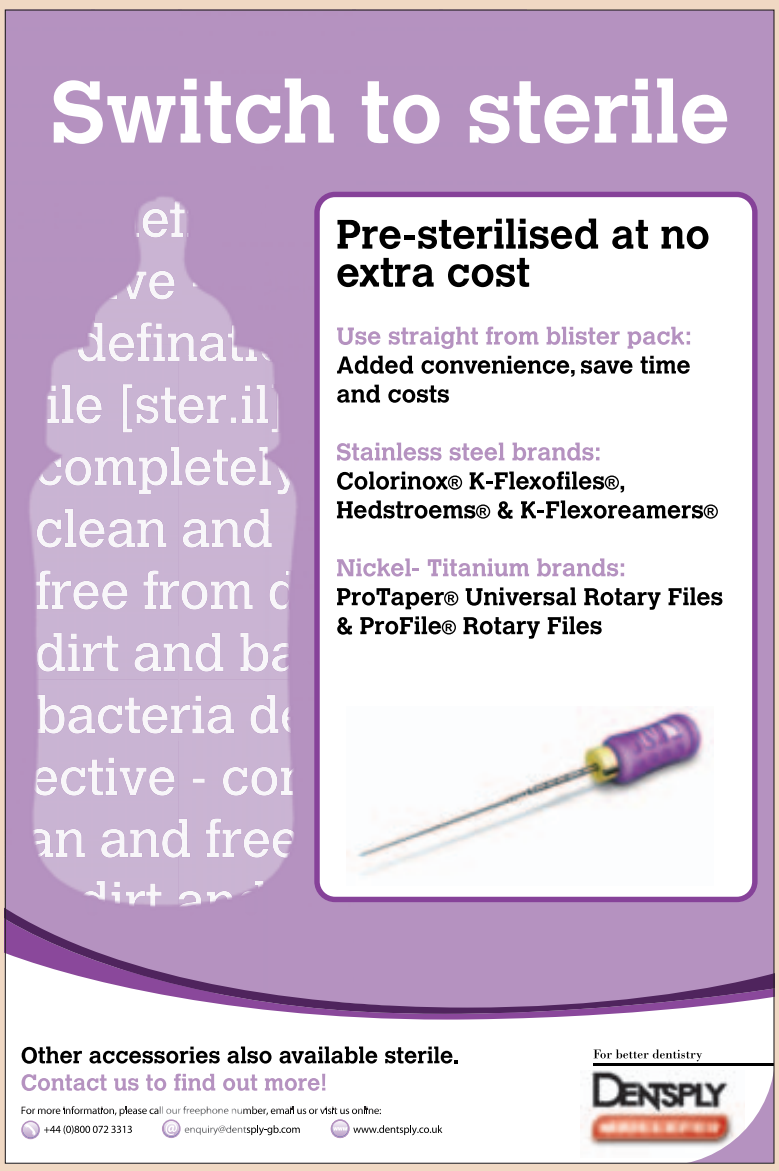
Professor Drinkwater said: 'The 2006 reforms of health service dentistry and the onus placed on primary care trusts to improve access to NHS care in the 2008/09 Operating Framework, alongside the challenges posed by the recommendations of the NHS Next Stage Review, mean that local commissioning is the big issue facing health service dentistry.'

He added: 'An understanding of what constitutes excellence in commissioning, what practical options are available to commissioners and what can be delivered for patients are essential.'

The group is expected to focus on four major areas of work including innovative and flexible commissioning, integration of primary care services, developing oral health in strategic health authorities and primary care trust strategies and incorporating patient experience, including access, into commissioning.

The group includes representatives from the NHS Confederation, the Local Government Association and Picker Institute Europe, as well as senior figures from across the dental community such as Dr Susie Sanderson, chair of the British Dental Association's (BDA) Executive Board and Marina Harris, president of the British Society of Dental Hygiene and Therapy.

The Independent Commission, which is expected to report its findings in September, has been established as part of a major BDA project exploring excellence in local commissioning. DT



Dental units on the move

The first national oral health improvement programme for young children in Wales is being rolled out with the help of a fleet of mobile dental units.

The scheme, which was launched by First Minister Rhodri Morgan, involves a team of dental health support workers giving out toothbrushes and toothpaste to school children along with oral health advice.

Part of the service will be delivered via mobile dental health units that will play a key role in providing specialist preventive care and treatment to schools.

The Designed to Smile programme was announced last year by Health Minister Edwina Hart and has already been running on a much smaller scale.

It will now be rolled out through two super pilots in North and South Wales. Children in nursery, reception and year one classes in schools, in areas deemed to be of greatest oral health need, will be visited by the dental fleet.

Over 300 schools are expected to benefit from the scheme during their rollout over the next three years.

Welsh children have the worst rates of tooth decay in the UK. On average, a five-year-old in Wales has between two and three decayed, missing or filled teeth, compared to less than two in Great Britain as a whole.

The First Minister Rhodri Morgan said: 'Rates of tooth decay are far too high in Wales given that it is almost a preventable disease.'

'This programme recognises that extra level of oral health problems we face in Wales. Through 'Designed to Smile' we hope to extend the provision of preventative care and treatment to children in Wales so that we can reduce the number of children with poor dental health to the UK average level and then to even lower levels.'

Health Minister Edwina Hart said: 'This programme will help meet our One Wales commitment to provide a new public health focus on dentistry and ensure that children are given the tools skills they need to maintain good oral health.'

The British Dental Association (BDA) Wales welcomed the initiative. Stuart Geddes, BDA Director for Wales, said: 'There is clearly much work to be done to improve the oral health of Wales' children and this fleet of mobile dental units is a good way of taking oral health education messages to those who might not normally receive them.

One of the key messages to get through is the importance of visiting a dentist regularly.'

However he added: 'Ensuring that there are adequate dentists available to treat all those who seek care is a further challenge, and this must also be addressed.'

The programme, which will be jointly run by the Community Dental Services of North Wales NHS Trust and Cardiff and the Vale NHS Trust, will also introduce the new child friendly logo of Dewi the Dragon that will be used as a brand for the entire programme, uniting both super pilots.

Both Community Dental Services in North and South Wales have taken on new staff to implement the preventative programme who will play an integral role in the success of the scheme.

Dr Menna Lloyd programme lead for Cardiff and the Vale NHS Trust called the programme a 'very welcome Welsh Assembly Government development' and said it 'will enable the Community Dental Service to really make a difference by reducing dental decay levels in children. We have now appointed the 'Designed to Smile' teams and they are already busily working in schools and with parent groups to get the message across that healthy teeth are important.'

Welsh children will receive oral health advice as well as toothpaste and toothbrushes

While Dr Michelle Seager programme lead at North Wales NHS Trust said: 'We are pleased to have been chosen by the Welsh Assembly Government to be one of the super pilot areas. Working alongside Cardiff and Vale Community Dental Service we have developed a brand image and some great resources to help make toothbrushing fun.'

'Designed to Smile' is a Welsh Assembly Government funded scheme that forms part of a national oral health action plan for Wales.

Total funding of £4.6 million for the action plan is expected to be made available till at least 2010/11. DT

Dental schools to join hands

For the first time, three dental schools have joined forces to develop joint research opportunities.

Cardiff University's School of Dentistry, the Peninsula Dental School in Exeter and the dental school at University of Bristol have formed the South West & Wales Dental Schools' Research Symposium.

The initiative is designed to develop research excellence and open up more avenues of funding.

Professor Elizabeth Treasure, dean of the School of Dentistry at Cardiff, said: 'Developing research that impacts patients locally, regionally and globally depends on the sharing of knowledge across the profession to advance treatments that produce real results for patients.

The schools will develop joint research opportunities

The School of Dentistry is the only one of its type in Wales, providing unique and important leadership in dental research, teaching and patient care. We are very excited to be able to be part of this symposium which is the start of strengthening research collaborations across the three institutions.'

Professor Liz Kay, dean at the Peninsula Dental School, believes that the three institutions bring 'knowledge, skills and expertise that can make South Wales and the West Country an international centre for dental research of the highest quality'.

While Professor Jonathan Sandy, Head of Bristol Dental School, commented: 'There is now a realization that Schools need to collaborate to maximize their research potential. The three Dental Schools cover an area which accounts for 10 per cent of the UK population which should enable translational research in basic and population sciences.' DT

Reviewing infection control

The British Dental Association is holding a one-day seminar aimed at the whole dental team on best practice for managing infection control in the surgery.

The event is being held on Friday 27 February at the Cavendish Conference Centre in London.

The dental profession is currently undergoing a period of rapid change within infection control and is eagerly awaiting the new HTM 01-05, *Decontamination in Dentistry*.

This new document will consolidate previous guidance into one and incorporate practice standards. This is an opportunity for dental professionals to learn from industry experts on how these new developments will affect their practice and how to overcome challenges.

Kevin Lewis, dental director at Dental Protection Limited, will be speaking at the seminar on general guidelines for infection control in dentistry and the legal context and professional and ethical responsibilities.

Judith Doig, practice manager and Samantha Wright, head nurse at the Private Dental Centre, will be looking at the practical lessons learnt in infection control management and techniques for getting the whole practice involved and committed to infection control.

Caroline Pankhurst, senior specialist clinical teacher at King's College London Dental Institute, will be discussing guidelines for effective use of barrier techniques: gloves, glasses, masks, surgery clothing and immunisation protocols and access for practice staff.

Carmel Maher and Sarah Green, regional consultants at schulke UK, will be speaking on the fundamentals of systematic hand washing and being aware of what gloves are availible and the mist suitable for you and your team

Daniel McAlonan, health and safety adviser at the British Dental Association's (BDA) Professional Advisory Services, will be exploring the issue of the safe management of healthcare waste.

The last speaker, Paul Jenkins, operational manager for the Sterile Services Department at Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust, will talk about maintaining high standards of decontamination and complying with HTM 01-05.

The seminar meets the educational criteria set by the General Dental Council for verifiable CPD (six hours) and is certified by the BDA.

For further information on the programme and to book your place on this seminar please contact: Merete Hatlestad, events executive at the BDA. Tel: 020 7563 4590, fax: 020 7563 4591, email: events@bda.org DT

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Editorial comment

All in a spin

‘The Tories are spitting feathers once again this week after the government said access to NHS dentistry has improved. Ann Keen remains adamant that it is getting better in the dentistry world, and it probably is looking good in the three areas she refers to. But what about the other areas? Well if we base our opinion on the official figures released at the latter part of last year, it is hard to be optimistic. With 1.2m fewer people seeing an NHS dentist in the two years up to 2008 compared to the last two years under the old contract, is it any wonder why the Tories think they can do better? Nevertheless, the Department is resilient to such bashings. Said the DH, ‘with more money, new NHS dental practices and more NHS dentists, progress is imminent.’ DT’

Stamping out decay

‘The move to introduce mobile dental units to sort out children’s teeth in Wales is to be applauded. The scheme means children will receive toothbrushes and toothpaste as well as oral care advice in a bid to stamp out tooth decay. With Welsh children having the worst rates of tooth decay in the UK, *Designed to Smile* should make a real difference. Not only that, now that the scheme will extend through two super pilots in North and South Wales, improved oral health ‘in areas deemed to be of greatest oral health need,’ is literally just around the corner. No less than 300 schools will benefit from the scheme in the next three years. A big thanks goes to First Minister Rhodri Morgan please.’ DT’

Do you have an opinion or something to say on any Dental Tribune UK article? Or would you like to write your own opinion for our guest comment page?

If so don’t hesitate to write to: The Editor, Dental Tribune UK Ltd, 4th Floor, Treasure House, 19-21 Hatton Garden, London, EC1N 8BA.

Or email: penny@dentaltribuneuk.com

Esential seminar

The British Dental Association is holding a seminar on how to prepare for retirement. This is an opportunity for dental professionals to get financial advice on retirement, as well as guidance on the more personal life-changing issues.

The event on 13 February at Westerwood Hotel in Glasgow is part of the British Dental Association’s (BDA) seminar series aimed at dental professionals considering retirement in the near future.

A spokesman for the BDA said: ‘Learn from, and interact with, our panel of experts offering you advice on how to manage the changes retirement brings, including financial planning, NHS pension scheme, disposing of the practice and much more.’

The seminar includes a talk by Roy Smitheman, financial adviser, from Lloyd & Whyte, on managing finances during retirement, inheritance tax, long-term care and equity release.

Mike Marigold, managing director of Montgomery Charles, will talk about SIPP investments. Wallace Mair, senior policy officer for BDA Scotland will talk about early retirement because of ill health and Joanna Coates of BDA Professional and Advisory Services will speak about how to sell your practice.

The seminar meets the educational criteria set by the GDC for verifiable CPD (5 1/2 hours) and is certified by the British Dental Association.

For further information on the programme and to book your place on this seminar please contact: Erica Sprigge, events officer at the British Dental Association. Tel: 020 7563 4590, fax: 020 7563 4591, email: events@bda.org. DT

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Duraphat 5000ppm Fluoride Toothpaste. Active ingredient: Sodium Fluoride 1.1 %w/w (5000ppm F) **Indication:** Prevention of dental caries in adolescents and adults over 16 years of age, particularly amongst patients at risk from multiple caries (coronal and/or root caries). **Dosage and administration:** Brush carefully on a daily basis applying a 2 cm ribbon onto the toothbrush for each brushing. 3 times daily, after each meal. **Contraindications:** This medicinal product must not be used in cases of hypersensitivity of the active substance or to any of the excipients. **Special warnings and precautions for use:** An increased number of potential fluoride sources may lead to fluorosis. In order to prevent the accumulation of fluoride, the total intake must be assessed before this fluoride toothpaste is ever used. Fluoride tablets, drops, chewing gum, gels or varnishes and fluoridated water or salt should be avoided during use of Duraphat Toothpaste. When carrying out overall calculations of the recommended fluoride ion intake, which is 0.05 mg/kg per day from all sources, not exceeding 1 mg per day, allowance must be made for possible ingestion of toothpaste (each tube of Duraphat 5000ppm Fluoride Toothpaste contains 255 mg of fluoride ions). This product contains Sodium Benzoate. Sodium Benzoate is a mild irritant to the skin, eyes and mucous membrane. **Undesirable effects:** In patients with Immune system disorders rare (>1/10,000 <1/1,000): hypersensitivity reactions. **Legal classification:** POM. **Product licence:** PL0049/0050. **Product licence holder:** Colgate-Palmolive (U.K.) Ltd. Guildford Business Park, Middleton Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 8JZ. **Recommended retail price:** £6.99 (51g tube), £13.99 (triple pack contains 3x51g tubes). **Date of revision of text:** September 2003.

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1 Biesbrock AR et al,(2001) Community Dent Oral Epidemiol;29:382-389. 2 Baysan et al. (2001); Caries Res; 35:41-46. 3 Marinho et al. (2000); Cochrane Database Syst. Rev. no3. www.colgateprofessional.co.uk

Guilty McGowan faces the charges

A dentist in Northern Ireland, who left a patient in pain after she botched up routine clinical procedures, has been found guilty of misconduct.

Clare McGowan, a dentist in Belfast, left the woman in pain after the crowns she had fitted kept falling out. The woman returned again and again to the surgery but was told that the pain would settle down.

McGowan was found guilty of a series of allegations

McGowan was also accused of asking patients to pay in cash and stuffing wads of notes into her handbag.

The General Dental Council heard that when the Belfast dentist resigned she took the patient's records with her.

Another patient made a complaint when McGowan bungled work on her fillings at the Cavity Corner Dental Surgery, Antrim Road, north Belfast.

She told the hearing: 'It's my personal opinion that the problems I have experienced with abscesses and root canal surgery is as a result of the filling. I was not happy at all that the work has not been done to a proper standard.

I think somebody should be responsible for the work that has been done wrongly.' She claimed that her teeth were sensitive after the treatment and one tooth needed root canal surgery. There were also allegations over dishonesty.

One patient said she wrote a cheque for £265 made out to McGowan instead of the surgery after McGowan said she needed the money to pay for a trip to a wedding in England.

The other patient claimed she spent more than £2,000 on the dental work but was not given any receipts. She claimed she gave £1,100 in notes to McGowan who put the money into her handbag after claiming the surgery would only accept cash for treatment.

McGowan was cleared of dishonesty but found guilty of a series of allegations. Tribunal chair Margaret Gray criticised the dentist's lack of planning, poor communication and practice.

McGowan who also worked at Ballynahinch Dental Care, Main Street, County Down, was cleared of dishonesty and of not entering payments received into the practice's accounts.

Despite the findings she could still be struck off if the committee decides her fitness to practice is impaired. The hearing has been adjourned until a date to be fixed later this month. DT

Scottish Childsmile launch

Children at six schools in Inverness have had their teeth painted with a fluoride varnish as part of a new Scottish oral health improvement programme called Childsmile.

The programme is being rolled out in schools and nurseries across the full NHS Highland area by 2011.

Specially trained Childsmile nurses are visiting schools and nurseries and applying a fluoride varnish to the teeth of children, whose parents have agreed to the procedure.

The youngsters involved are aged between two and six-years-old and the fluoride will leave their teeth orange for a couple of days, but the colour soon disappears.

Consent forms have been distributed to parents and they have been given the opportunity to ask any questions or raise concerns at a consent meeting.

Jennie Rawlins, who is oral health improvement co-ordinator for the North Highland Community Health Partnership (CHP), said: 'The Childsmile oral health support workers will arrange these sessions within the schools, attend consent meetings and provide further information, run the sessions on the day and ensure all the paperwork and administration is completed correctly.

Aftercare instructions are given to children to take home and for parents to pass to the child's dentist to let them know this has been done.'

The CHP also employs oral health educators (OHE) who visit nurseries and school every term to oversee the toothbrushing programme and ensure staff training is up-to-date.

The oral health educators provide education and activities based on diet, toothbrushing, visiting the dentist and fluoride.

The Department of Health claims that when fluoride varnish is applied two to three times a year to the biting surfaces of teeth, it reduces tooth decay by 30-40 per cent. DT

The children involved are aged between two and six-years-old

GDC hunts down members

The General Dental Council is looking for registrant members and lay members to join its new Council.

The General Dental Council (GDC) wants a wide variety of people to apply and is looking for candidates with experience of being involved in public life and sound judgement. People also need to be able to make sense of complex issues, think clearly and have the ability to be fair and see the bigger picture.

The new-look Council, will be made up of 12 registrant members and 12 lay members.

'These are exciting times to become involved in healthcare regulation, and this is a great opportunity to play a leading role. Don't let this opportunity pass you by. Log onto our website to find out more,' said GDC president Hew Mathewson.

The new Council is a good opportunity for everyone, both dental professionals and members of the public, to get involved in how the UK dental profession is regulated.

I would strongly urge those registrants and members of the public with the relevant skills to apply to serve on the new Council since this is a unique opportunity to shape the future of dental regulation which is only open once every four years,' he added

The Department of Health has recently extended the current Council's term of office for a period of up to six months. This extension is a result of a delay in the legislation necessary for the appointment of the new Council.

The Appointments Commission is overseeing the recruitment process for the new Council who will be appointed against the criteria for the role.

All Council members must share a common objective – to protect patients.

When choosing the candidates, consideration will be given to the particular areas of expertise required, the fact that the GDC regulates dental professionals from each of the four UK countries and equality and diversity.

The decision to implement a new-look, smaller, fully appointed Council follows the 2007 publication of the White Paper setting out the Government's plans for healthcare regulation, including how the councils of healthcare regulatory bodies should be made up.

To apply for a place on the new Council, go to *http://www.gdc-uk.org/* DT

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Calling international dentists

A new recruitment agency in Northern Ireland has been set up to attract experienced dentists from across the globe to work in Northern Ireland.

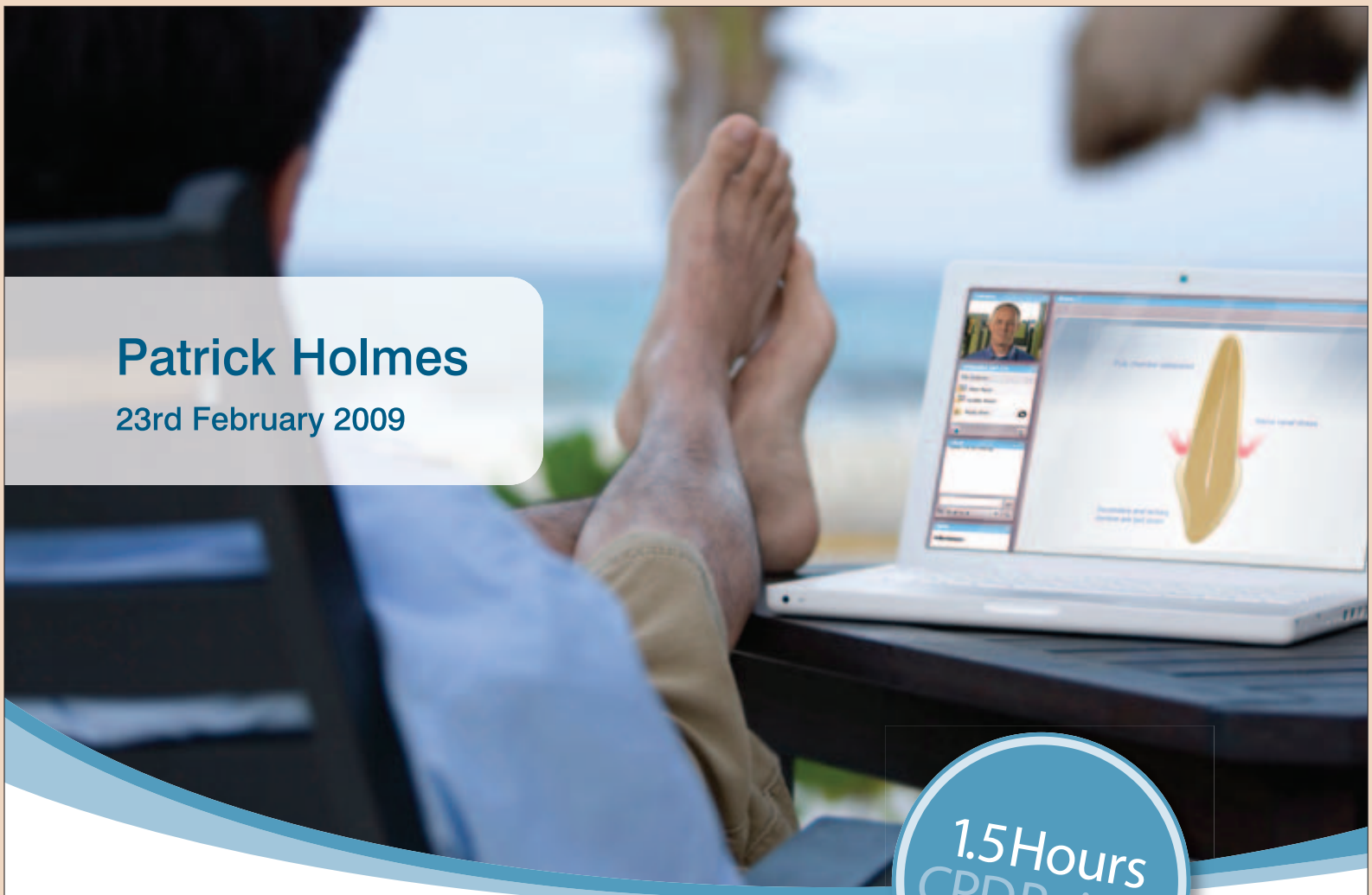
KMS Dental Recruitment on Spencer Road in Northern Ireland, is the first of its kind in the country, and already has a number of vacancies and candidates on its books.

There is an ongoing shortage of dentists, particularly in the north west region of Northern Ireland and recent recruitment drives by local health authorities have failed to attract dentists, with many local practices last year closing their books to NHS patients.

KMS Dental Recruitment has been set up by recruitment specialist, Kevin McShane. Mr McShane said: 'We are delighted to bring our recruitment expertise into the dental profession in Northern Ireland, where there is a large demand for extra dentists to serve our local population.

'The company's main aim is to attract experienced, qualified dentists to Northern Ireland from Britain and further afield. This will add to the existing pool of local dentists and ensure easier access to dental services for local people throughout Northern Ireland.'

KMS Dental Recruitment serves dentists and dental practices across the whole of Northern Ireland from its Derry headquarters. DT



Fully booked surgery

A dental surgery in Essex, which has finally opened after a two-year fight to get planning permission – is fully booked for the next four months.

Benfleet Dental Studio, in Downer Road North, Benfleet, had planning applications rejected twice by Castle Point Council.

Planning officers were concerned that the new surgery would cause traffic jams on Bread and Cheese Hill. But the National Planning Inspectorate in Bristol overturned the judgement.

Stephen Denny, partner at the NHS practice, said: 'I don't think the council ever wanted it used for this because of the amount of traffic. But since we opened, transport has been absolutely fine.'

He added: 'It was a shame we had to fight for so long, because the area really needs more dentists.'

The new surgery was given permission to open on the condition it is used as a satellite surgery, taking extra patients from the practice's other surgery in High Street. As well as a regular surgery, the dentist also provides specialised treatment.

There is an orthodontist at the surgery and the practice also offers home visits. It also houses a training facility for up and coming practitioners and Mr Denny wants to recruit young dentists who will want to stay and work in the area. DT

Courses on facial aesthetics

Courses are being held in Watford for dental professionals looking to further their skills in facial aesthetics

The *Get Hands-On With FaceTec+* course is being held by Dr Brian Franks, the clinical director of dentistry for Bupa and a recognised tutor for botulinum toxin wrinkle reduction treatment and dermal fillers.

The courses will be held at Senova Dental Studios in Watford on 7-8 March, 18-19 April, 30-31 May.

For further information and to book a course contact Jan on 07973 558 595 or email brian@drbrianfranks.com. DT

More NHS dentistry for Scotland

The number of Scots registered with a NHS dentist has gone up by a fifth in a year, according to official statistics.

A total of 57.2 per cent of adults, or more than 2.3m people, were signed up with a dentist at the end of September 2008. This is an increase of 19 per cent on the previous year.

A total of 810,682 children - or 77.4 per cent of those under the age of 18 - are also now registered with an NHS dentist, a rise of 10 per cent over the 12 months to the end of September 2008.

The figures, released by ISD Scotland, showed that an increase of registrations was recorded in all health boards but the figures were still very low in some areas of the country.

In NHS Grampian, 39.2 per cent of people were registered with a dentist, compared with 73.3 per cent of patients in Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

Children between the ages of six and 12 are most likely to be signed up, with 87 per cent registered with an NHS dental practitioner.

The statistics have been published in the wake of the announcement from the Scottish Government that it is investing £82m in dental healthcare in Scotland, providing 13 new dental centres as well as new GP surgeries and other community health facilities.

Shona Robison, Minister for Public Health, said that improving NHS dentistry was a 'top priority' for the Scottish Government.

She said: 'The fact that more people than ever before are registered with an NHS dentist is great news for patients the length and breadth of Scotland.

However we cannot be complacent, because there are still longstanding geographical variations that will take time to even out.

With record numbers of dentists working in the NHS, I am confident we are laying strong foundations to reverse the years of decline seen under previous administrations.'

She added: 'The problems in the north of Scotland with access to NHS dentistry are of long standing, but this government is working hard to reverse the years of decline seen under previous administrations.

We have already opened the new £21m dental school in Aberdeen, which will produce an extra 20 graduates per year.

And just last week NHS boards in the north of Scotland outlined their plans for spending more than £17m of Scottish Government money, with new dental centres planned in Aberdeen, Fraserburgh, Huntly, Inverness, Oban, Thurso, Campbeltown, Kirkwall and Stornoway.'

However Lib Dem health spokesman Jamie Stone said people should not lose sight of the bigger picture, as 43 per cent of adults are still not registered with an NHS dentist.

'It is generally accepted that more dentists is the answer to the crisis in dental services, particularly in remote and rural areas. The government needs to make training new dentists a priority,' the Highland MSP said.

While Lib Dem north-east MSP Mike Rumbles said the government had to make it lucrative enough for dentists in the private sector to work for the NHS.

He said: 'There is only one way to solve it and that is for the Scottish Government to sit down and negotiate with the British Dental Association to change terms and conditions and bring them back into the NHS.' DT

More Scots than ever before have registered with a NHS dentist

Dentist wins invention award

A dentist from Oxfordshire, has won an award for his invention which safely removes used surgical needles from a syringe – a device which protects against needle stick injuries.

Steve Cooley, a dentist in Adderbury in Banbury, won the annual Banbury Innovation Award. Mr Cooley has won free legal and financial advice, free office space for a year, £500 in cash, a trophy, and other benefits to help with running a new business.

Mr Cooley set up Safe-Point Healthcare with his wife Lesley and business partner Phillip Field. He hopes that one day the product will be used in hospitals, doctors' surgeries and as part of vaccination programmes around the world. Safe-Point is a low voltage electrical device designed to address the problem of cross infection through needle-stick injury.

The device automatically unscrews the needle from the syringe and deposits it in a lockable bin. DT

Private dentistry at NHS prices

A new dental surgery in Burslem in Stoke-on-Trent is competing with the NHS by offering private dental care at NHS prices.

The Advanced Dental Clinic has opened in the premises of the former Moorland Road dental practice which closed last year.

Nearly 5,000 NHS patients were forced to look for a new dentist. Now they are being invited to return to join the new private surgery.

Partner Paul Harrison said: 'We have taken the roll on and we are now trying to compete with the NHS by offering similar prices.'

The new owners have inquired about getting an NHS contract but so far they have been unsuccessful.

Dental surgeon Nuno Ferreira said: 'The intention is to provide real quality treatments at a price similar to the NHS, with an extra quality which will compensate for the little bit extra that people may need to pay.'

He said patients could typically expect to pay £20 for a consultation, as opposed to the under-review £16.20 NHS charge.

A straightforward filling will cost £45. The NHS currently charges £44.60 for fillings. The same price applies for root canal treatment or extractions. DT

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Conference covers five CPD areas

A conference covering the five core areas for Continuing Professional Development recommended by the General Dental Council, will be touring the UK this year.

Smile-on has joined forces with Professional Conferences and is putting on The Core CPD Update Conference 2009.

A spokeswoman for Professional Conferences said: 'Designed to meet the needs of the whole dental team, the event will enable dentists and dental care professionals to satisfy the General Dental Council's (GDC's) requirement for verifiable Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in core knowledge areas and will initially take place in the following three venues. Hilton Hotel, Watford on 30 March, Hilton Hotel, Gatwick on 6 May and Kensington Town Hall, London on 11 May. The conference will also be held in Manchester, Bristol, Leeds and Birmimgham.'

Speakers include Dr Colin Cook, founding member of the European Association of Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology.

His presentation *Dental Radiography: Today's Requirements, Tomorrow's Possibilities* will cover the implications of ionising radiation regulations and the training required across the dental team.

Dr Cook will examine the different imaging options available, along with the benefits of each, including cone beam technology.

Dr Len D'Cruz, member of the British Dental Association's General Dental Practice Committee, will give delegates the benefit of his dento-legal advisory experience with his lecture *Legal and Ethical Issues: Risky Business – Avoiding the Banana Skins*. Topics to be covered include consent, confidentiality, principles of criminal negligence and medico-legal pitfalls of the NHS contract. Dr D'Cruz will also explore current dento-legal topics to keep delegates up to date, and provide an understanding of where common problems occur and how risks can be minimised and avoided.

Dr Martin Fulford's lecture 'Dental Decontamination in the 21st Century' will present an overview of infection risks in the practice, the range of decontamination methods available and how teams can achieve best practice.

With his presentation *Dealing With Complaints Professionally*, dento-legal adviser for Dental Protection Ltd and oral surgery expert Stephen Henderson will discuss patient feedback, the common causes of complaints and strategies to handle objections effectively.

With the NHS complaints procedure due to change on 1 April, Mr Henderson will look at the new procedure, the Dental Complaints Service and the role of the GDC. Learning objectives include complaint definition and resolution, with delegates gaining a thorough understanding of how the NHS complaints procedure and Dental Complaints Service work.

The fifth core area will be covered by Dr Yusof (Joe) Omar with the two hour lecture *Medical Emergencies In Dental Practice*, to help delegates develop a real grasp of their role in managing emergencies including epileptic seizures, diabetes and anaphylaxis. The lecture will incorporate helpful learning tools including films and when faced with an emergency, delegates will know exactly what equipment they need, and how to administer the necessary drugs.

The conference costs £99 plus VAT (excluding lunch) or £114 plus VAT (including two course seated lunch with wine).

Delegates can receive up to seven hours of certificated and verifiable CPD, and will be able to apply their knowledge immediately in their day-to-day duties.

For more information, and to ensure your place, call Professional Conferences on 01923 859626 or go to *www.proconferences.com* DT

Dental school 'will cut waiting lists'

The head of Aberdeen University's dental school claims the new school will cut NHS dental waiting lists in the north-east of Scotland.

Professor James Newton

Professor James Newton, who has just been appointed head of the school, hopes that as many as 10 to 15 per cent of patients on the NHS dental waiting list can be treated by students.

The region's dental waiting list is thought to be nearly 31,000. Consultation with patients begins next month to see who can be and who is willing to be treated by students. The programme will start in the summer.

Professor Newton believes that once people are aware of the dental school, more patients who are not even on the waiting list will come forward. Professor Newton previously worked at Dundee University where he was sub dean for teaching. He was also a senior clinical lecturer and honorary consultant in restorative dentistry.

He worked as a practising NHS dentist for six years before joining the university.

Professor Newton said: 'This is an exciting opportunity to develop a centre of excellence for dentistry which will be beneficial not only for Aberdeen and Grampian, but for Scotland as a whole. We are looking forward to working with other established dental schools in providing high quality, caring dentists so as to improve and maintain the oral health of the people of Scotland.'

Professor Stephen Logan, senior vice principal of the University of Aberdeen, called Professor Newton, 'an experienced dentist who has worked closely in dental education for many years' and said: 'We very much look forward to him taking forward and developing our new dental school'.

It is hoped that the dental school could also provide training for dental nurses and hygienists in the future. It will also be available for referrals and extra support for GPs working in the area.

The new University of Aberdeen Dental School building will be completed in September and open for use in October.

The purpose built complex will feature facilities for oral surgery, dental accident and emergency, restorative dentistry, integrated oral care, orthodontics, paediatric dentistry, radiography as well as dental laboratories, student laboratories and office accommodation. DT

High standards at Nith

A dental surgery in Dumfries in Scotland has been accepted onto the Good Practice Scheme by the British Dental Association.

The Nith Place Dental Practice has been recognised for its high standards of service by the British Dental Association (BDA). There are 102 requirements that the practice has to comply with under the scheme.

Philip Bown, at Nith Place Dental Practice, said: 'It has been a lot of hard work, but everyone has found it worthwhile and we really do feel that we have improved our service to patients.'

The BDA Good Practice Scheme offers practices a way of telling their patients that they are committed to working to a standard of good practice set by the profession's national association. DT

Resolutions for financial fitness

The New Year is a time of renewal, often of the resolutions that we failed to keep the previous year! Peter Dunn reassures you there's still time to put them right

Are you in peak financial fitness?

→ DT page 10

So what if you haven't managed to exercise every day or to start that diet or to leave the practice earlier – don't berate yourself for this, because there's still plenty of room for change. The resolutions you shouldn't ignore are those that have an impact on everything else that goes on in your life. This year, with a darkening financial cloud ahead of us, there are very real reasons to make and stick to our New Year's financial fitness resolutions. Here are our top tips to ensure that you and your loved ones remain in peak financial condition.

Say you will

Make sure you have a will and it is up-to-date. No apologies for making this our number one tip. The nightmare situation is if you have children and die intestate (without a valid will) your married or civil partner will only receive:

- Your personal effects (the deceased's personal belongings and chattels).
- £125,000 free of inheritance tax.
- A life interest in half the remainder of the estate.

By not preparing a will, you invariably cause difficulties for your family at a time which is already distressing enough. Imagine this very real scenario:

- Your next of kin have burrowed through your drawers and realised that no will exists so they go through the courts to gain the power to deal with your estate. This is time consuming and can be costly.
- When they eventually reach the point where they can gain access to your estate they then have to distribute it according to the Laws of Intestacy. If you are not married or have a civil partnership the position is even worse as the survivor would get nothing from the other's estate.
- After many months or even years without access to their share of your assets, it is quite possible your next of kin could suffer financial hardship and possibly go into debt.
- With a will it would simply be a matter of applying for probate (a process that is far quicker and easier to complete) with the net proceeds reaching the right hands much quicker and distributed as you would have wished.

Ensure you insure

Can you say 'yes' to all the following statements?

- If I die, all my borrowings can be repaid and my family will not need to compromise their lifestyle.
- If I'm disabled and unable to work, my practice costs will be covered and in the event of long term illness, I can repay all my borrowings and my family will survive without financial hardship.
- In the event of an unexpected incident at work, such as a fire, theft or the loss of utilities, my business will not suffer financially.

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