

General Dental Services – Monthly News Sheet

MOUTH CANCER ACTION MONTH

The important work of dentists and dental care professionals in early detection of oral cancer is well recognised. If you would like to help raise **awareness** of mouth cancer then now is the perfect time.

PRESS THE RIBBON FOR SOME IDEAS!

For those practices who prefer **social media**, the following link supported by the Oral Health Foundation may be more effective for you:

<http://www.mouthcancer.org/thunderclap-mouth-cancer-action/>



We are supporting
**Mouth Cancer
Action Month
November 2017**
Oral Health Foundation

Payment to the GDC of Annual Retention Fee (ARF)

In order to practice dentistry, all dentists must hold current registration with the GDC. This registration must be renewed through payment of an Annual Retention Fee (ARF) at the end of each calendar year. Each year the GDC contacts the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) to inform it of dentists who have failed to pay their ARF on time. These dentists cannot legally practice dentistry. When the HSCB becomes aware of this situation each dentist is contacted by a dental adviser and advised to stop treating patients (both Health Service and Private) immediately and not to carry out any treatment until they are fully restored to the GDC register. The dentist then has to make alternative arrangements for the patients' continuing and emergency care. It should also be noted that during a period of non-registration the dentist's indemnity is not valid.

For more information, please see: <http://www.gdc-uk.org/Dentalprofessionals/Fees/Pages/Annual-retention-fee.aspx>.

Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre (NIAIC)

Reporting Medical Device and Estates Adverse Incidents

The key aim of the NIAIC is to record and investigate reported adverse incidents involving medical devices, non-medical equipment, plant and buildings used within the healthcare environment across Northern Ireland and to issue warning notices and guidance to help prevent recurrence and avert patient, staff, client or user injury.

Further information can be found at the following link.

<https://applications.health-ni.gov.uk/NICAS/Public/Alerts.aspx>

Feedback: We would appreciate your comments and/or queries regarding the Monthly News Sheet. Please send them by email to: GDSMonthlyNewsSheet@hscni.net or telephone 028 9536 2823.

PREPARING FOR THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)

On 28th May 2018 one of the most significant changes to data protection law for twenty years will take place. The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) will come into force across Europe building on previous legislation, bringing a 21st century approach to the processing of personal data. The UK government has confirmed that the decision to leave the EU will not affect the introduction of the GDPR in the UK.

One of the most reliable and informative sources of guidance on GDPR is from the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) website. All organisations should make themselves familiar with the resources and guidance posted about GDPR on the ICO website. The following link will take you to the relevant section:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-reform/>

Clinical Audit and Peer Review

The General Dental Services Regulations outline the requirement for dental practitioners working under the GDS to undertake at least 15 hours of clinical audit activities every three years in the form of clinical audits or peer review groups.

The Clinical Audit and Peer Review Assessment Panel was first established in 1992 to oversee a voluntary pilot peer review scheme. Following its success the scheme continued on a voluntary basis with clinical audit introduced in 1997. The Clinical Audit and Peer Review scheme became mandatory in 2001 when the Department of Health issued its guidance "Clinical Audit and Peer Review in General Dental Practice." The Panel meet regularly to ensure compliance with the relevant GDS Regulation and to approve activities for payment.

An Advice Sheet has recently been produced by the Panel to provide practical advice to practitioners in regards to the submission and completion of Clinical Audits and Peer Review projects and is available at: <http://www.hsrbusiness.hscni.net/services/2335.htm>

For further information please contact caprap.bso@hscni.net

Door Safety Warning!

The British Association of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (BAPRAS) has recently called for greater use of door safety catches, in an effort to cut the estimated 50,000 children and toddlers each year whose hands and fingers are crushed by closing doors.

Following a recent event in a FPS practice, we would urge all practices to check the safety mechanisms on the doors within their practice, and review these on a frequent basis.

The full press release from BAPRAS can be found here: <http://www.bapras.org.uk/media-government/news-and-views/view/bapras-urges-parents-to-use-door-safety-catches-to-stop-fingertip-injuries-in-toddlers>