GDC appoints new committee members

The General Dental Council (GDC) has appointed new members to its independent Appointments Committee - which monitors its Fitness to Practise Panel.

The role of the Appointments Committee is to oversee the training and performance of the General Dental Council (GDC)'s independent Fitness to Practise Panel, made up of 76 members, and recruit new members as required.

In the future it will also be responsible for recommending members for the Council's Investigating Committee, which considers allegations of impaired fitness to practise and decides whether a case should be referred to one of the Practice Committees.

Sally Irvine, the new chair of the Appointments Committee is currently a member of the GDC and will be resigning before she takes up her appointment.

She said: ‘All those joining the new Committee bring a wealth of invaluable experience from a variety of sectors, and I look forward to working with them to ensure that the GDC’s high standards continue to be met.’

The other new members are Nicola Billot, currently working as a dental nurse manager for Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust; Jeanne Goulding, a lay member of the General Medical Council’s Fitness to Practise Panels and a management consultant;

John Hunt, chief executive of the British Dental Association from 1992 to 2000; Ray McAndrew, clinical director for Community Dental Services in Glasgow; Marcia Roberts, chief executive of the Recruitment and Employment Confederation; James Walker, independent assessor for the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

PracticeWorks

**R4 Version III** practice management software

**NOW WITH**

- Credit Card Processing
- On-line Patient Appointment Booking
- Managed Service - the Web Based Option

**NEW R4 Version III** is the most advanced software of its kind. Developed with working Dentists, version three brings you a host of new features which include:

**Credit card processing** - links R4 with your PIN machine removing the possibility of errors and eliminating the need to reconcile your credit card transactions each month.

**On-line patient appointment booking** - offers your patients a web interface to make their own appointments. You control the type and times of appointments you offer.

**Managed Service - the web option**

PracticeWorks Managed Service is the simple and convenient on-line alternative to installing, running and managing software on your own computers.

While using Managed Service you'll:

- **NEVER** have to install new software or updates
- **NEVER** have to remember to back up
- **NEVER** spend hours over the weekend working out how to get your software running again after it's crashed
- **NEVER** suffer from a malicious virus attack that 'eats' all your data, and
- **NEVER** have to buy the most up-to-date computers just so that you can operate the latest software.

In other words, complete freedom from the burdens of IT system management.

**Time to move on to the next level**

For more information or to place an order please call 0800 169 9692 or visit www.practiceworks.co.uk

© PracticeWorks Limited 2008

**Monitoring tool for PCTs**

Smile-on has launched a tool for primary care trusts to check that dental practices are implementing satisfactory clinical governance.

The Clinical Governance Performance Management (CGPM) system has already been selected by the Dental Governance Committee (representing three primary care trusts (PCTs)) and the KSS Dental Postgraduate Deanery.

A spokeswoman for Smile-on said: ‘Because the responsibility for ensuring that practices implement satisfactory Clinical Governance lies with the PCTs, Smile-on has provided CGPM, which allows practices to upload progress details to www.cgpmuk.com for easy monitoring by PCTs.’

Key features of CGPM include a free-of-charge messaging system and resources from the KSS Deanery and PCTs that are constantly updated.

The programme enables practices to meet clinical governance core requirements.

Clinical governance is part of the NHS drive to improve the quality of health care and to make providers accountable for delivering a consistent standard on which patients can rely.

Barry Cockcroft, chief dental officer, who was present at the launch of the programme, said he believes clinical governance is vital because ‘it’s a key part of delivering a quality service to patients’ and because ‘an initiative like this makes the dentists feel really involved’.  

© PracticeWorks Limited 2008