Clinical governance programme success

Learning resources provider Smile-on has come up with a programme, to help dental professionals comply with the Healthcare Commission’s standards on clinical governance.

Smile-on’s Clinical Governance programme has been designed to correspond with the standards identified in Standards for Better Health (Department of Health, 2004).

The combination of an introductory seminar, comprehensive workbook, and 90-minute CD-ROM and/or online course, enables dental practices to comply with the clinical governance agenda.

The programme aims to help dental teams improve patient experience and satisfaction, reduce the scope for error, promote evidence-based care, encourage the involvement of the whole team and facilitate compliance with industry requirements.

A spokeswoman for Smile-on said: ‘The Clinical Governance Performance Management tool, practices can upload their progress so that primary care trusts can quickly and easily identify what has been achieved, and what remains to be done.’

For more information please call Smile-on on 0207 400 0800 or email info@smile-on.com.

Polyclinic opens up for business

The first in-store supermarket ‘polyclinic’ complete with a dentist, GP, pharmacist and podiatrist has opened.

Sainsbury’s has launched its first dental service in a supermarket last September in Sale in Greater Manchester, and it now has up to 5,500 patients registered.

David Gilder, head of professional services at Sainsbury’s, said: ‘Sainsbury’s Heaton Park is the first UK supermarket to enjoy an integrated healthcare facility with a dentist, doctor, pharmacy and podiatrist all on-site.

Our experience at Sainsbury’s Sale shows us that the combination of a convenient location, flexible opening hours and competitively priced treatments will be very popular with local residents, many of whom will have found it difficult to access private dental care before now.’

Graham Stringer, MP for Manchester Blackley, said: ‘The opening of the dental surgery is great news for the people of North Manchester. The success of the doctors based in the store has shown that there is a real need for easy access health facilities.’

BDA’s practical seminars

The British Dental Association is holding a seminar to offer dental professionals advice and information on fundning a practice and the challenges they may face when setting up a practice from scratch. The one-day seminar, will be held on 15 March at The Minories Hotel, Gloucester.

The event ‘Setting Up in Practice’ aims to answer a range of questions – from the philosophically

Watch out for tax traps

The introduction of Entrepreneurs’ Relief last year has created a potential pitfall for any dentist, who attempts to sell their practice or practice share, without taking specialist advice, according to a specialist dental accountant.

Generally, Entrepreneurs’ Relief is good news for small businesses, including dental practices, because it allows gains to be taxed at only 10 per cent rather than the new 18 per cent business tax introduced by the Chancellor last year.

Watch out for tax traps

He continued: ‘For dentists the most likely assets to attract capital gains tax on a sale are the surgery and any practice goodwill. To qualify for relief there must be a disposal of the whole or part of the business, the sale of a property in isolation will not qualify.

Thus, a partner who owns the surgery property outside of the practice will only qualify for the relief if it is sold at the same time as he retires (or withdraws from participation in the practice).’

If full market rent has been paid by the practice to the partner after 5 April 2008, there would be restricted relief. This might include profit sharing arrangements where only the property owning partners get an initial fixed profit share.

Fortunately, said Mr Flewitt, disposal of practice goodwill

Beware of getting caught in the tax trap

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CODE launches contract pack

CODE – the Association for Dental Practice, has produced a new contract pack with different versions for NHS, mixed and private practices.

There are both self-employed and employment contracts, with the new self-employed agreement reissued to create a balance between providers’ responsibility to ensure performers’ UDA targets are met and performers’ need to preserve their self-employed status.

Jonathan Cobbold, a partner of Gross and Co, who helped devise the contracts, said: ‘We have worked hard to ensure that the contracts are even-handed between the interests of all parties and that they are not over-restrictive and take into account the latest legislation, legal cases and precedents – to ensure that if followed correctly they are enforceable in the courts.’

The orthodontic agreement has been updated and incorporates safer payment arrangements for both NHS and private orthodontic clinics.

Following consultations with orthodontists, new clauses have been included to ensure that performers start and complete an agreed annual review of their contract 354, email tanya@CODEuk.com or visit www.CODEuk.com

For more information about the CODE Contract Pack please contact Tanya Gilmour on 01490 254 554, email tanya@CODEuk.com or visit www.CODEuk.com

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