Clinical governance programme success

Leaning 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 introductory seminar, comprehensively addresses 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 spokesman for Smile-on said: ‘We are pleased that Smile-on’s 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 408 0088 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.

BDA’s practical seminars

The British Dental Association is holding a seminar to offer dental professionals advice and information on funding 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 Menzies Hotel, Glasgow.

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.

Any gains above £1m are subject to an 18 per cent tax rate.

However, there are circumstances in which the relief will not apply and a dentist who does not take advice could find they are paying tax at 18 per cent rather than 10 per cent.

John Flewitt, partner at Menzies, a firm of Chartered Accountants, members of the National Association of Specialist Dental Accountants (NADA), advises any dentists considering selling their practice to get specialist advice.

He said: ‘In the Finance Act 2008, the Chancellor removed the relief from capital gains on business assets. This relief often resulted in the equivalent of a 10 per cent rate of tax on certain gains. When the Chancellor reduced the top rate of capital gains tax from 40 per cent to 18 per cent, there was an outcry that most gains on business assets would rise from 16 per cent to 18 per cent. As a result of lobbying by NADA and other organisations, Entrepreneurs’ relief was introduced.’

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 would, in most instances, be eligible for entrepreneurs’ relief, as it is treated as a disposal of part of the business. However, if the practice is incorporated then there are more detailed requirements to qualify for the relief.

For more information, contact John Flewitt on 01754 971180 or jflewitt@menzies.co.uk. Alternatively, to find a NADA member in your area, go to www.menzies- org.uk or call 0870 601 0259

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 employers agreements, with the new self-employed agreement redesigned 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 number of cases per month and maintain the contract value.

A new Associate Agreement for Private Practice has been included within the pack, It has a clear pay structure and robust restrictive covenants. Employment contracts have been updated in line with the current legislation and contain additional clauses on probationary period, unpaid leave, absence for reasons of family and family-friendly leave. Contracts are accompanied by guidelines on their use and letter templates.

Paul Mendlesohn, CODE’s chief executive said: ‘We are grateful for members’ contribution to this important contract update and hope that this new release will further simplify the process of dental practice management.

The updated contract pack is provided free of charge to all CODE members together with a complete portfolio of new CODE Contracts for therapists, hygienists, nurses and other staff in both hard copy format and digitally.

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

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