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 spokesman for Smile-on said: ‘With 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 8989 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: ‘We are pleased that Sainsbury’s Heaton Park in Manchester, now has the first polyclinic offering both private and NHS healthcare facilities.

The dental surgery at Heaton will be open seven days a week offering a wide range of treatments including check-ups, crowns and implants.

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Graham Stringer, MP for Manchester, 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 professional 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

He continued: ‘For dentists the most likely assets to attract capital gains tax are 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

CODE launches contract pack

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 Henderson, advises any dentists considering selling their practice to get specialist advice.

He said: ‘In the Finance Act 2008, the Chancellor removed taper relief from capital gains on business assets. This relief often results 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 18 per cent to 18 per cent. As a result of lobbying by NASDA and other organisations, entrepreneurs’ relief was introduced.’

If for more information, contact John Flewitt on 01784 497100 or jflewitt@menzies.co.uk. Alternately, to find a NASDA member in your area, go to www.menzies-uk.org.uk or call 0870 601 0250.

For more information about the CODE Contract Pack please contact Tanya Gilmore on 01409 254 554, email tanya@CODEzk.com or visit www.CODEzk.com.

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