Price rise

Discussions on the issue are ongoing. Under the current proposals, the cost of dental treatments, such as fillings or extractions, will rise from £44.60 to £48.60. The charge for intermediate treatments, such as fillings or extractions, will rise from £44.60 to £48.60. However, the maximum charge for ‘complex’ NHS dental treatments, such as the fitting of crowns, bridges or dentures, will be frozen at the existing rate of £918.

Star levels

Denplan has won the Best Companies Three Star Accreditations for employee engagement for the fourth year running. The star rating accreditation scheme is run by Best Companies, the organisation behind the Sunday Times list of 100 Best Companies to Work For. Steve Gates, managing director of Denplan, called the award ‘a real testament to the team here at Denplan, which continually goes that extra mile and rises to new challenges.’

GDC consultation

The General Dental Council is holding a consultation on Student Dental Fitness to Practise guidance. The aim of the guidance is to help dental schools and other training providers of registrable qualifications deal with issues that may arise during a student’s course of study, and which call into question whether they are fit to practice. The consultation will run for three months. The deadline for responses to the consultation is 5pm on 26 May. For more information go to http://www.gdc-uk.org.

We want commitment’ say campaigners

A-anti-fluoride campaigners are challenging the chief dental officer to accept personal liability, if anyone suffers side effects, when water fluoridation goes ahead in Southampton and other areas that decide to pursue the same policy.

A fluoridation is a hot topic at the moment, after South Central Strategic Health Authority took the decision to add fluoride to water in Southampton and the surrounding area, against the wishes of many residents and campaigners.

The government is pushing the policy, and health secretary Alan Johnson has called on all primary care trusts (PCT) to consider the move.

The campaigners are mirroring a similar challenge in Australia, when an anti-fluoride campaigner challenged the state premier of Queensland to back up her claims that there are no side effects to fluoridated water by signing a letter accepting responsibility if she was proved wrong.

In front of around 200 shocked people at a public meeting, Ms Bligh signed a document which read: ‘I, Anna Bligh, as the instigator of forced fluoridation in Queensland, give my personal guarantee that fluoridation causes no adverse health effects, and in the event that it does, I will accept full liability and will provide financial compensation.’

He added: ‘The survey will show us where the dental decay is and then we can think about the best way of dealing with it. There are a number of ways of dealing with dental decay such as tooth brushing schemes. We always have fluoridation in mind but it is one of a number of options.’

So far the PCT has not formally discussed fluoridation. If it decides to go ahead, the East of England Strategic Health Authority will hold a public consultation on the issue.

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