Maintaining momentum for training

Whether you’re a dentist, technician, hygienist or nurse, everyone must legally complete CPD. Sharon Holmes outlines the situation

By now we all know that CPD is an essential element in the dental industry. Not only is it required – it is also a legal necessity. At the end of a five-year period, the GDC will request from you a signed statement swearing that you have completed all your CPD as stipulated according to your qualifications, whether you are a dentist, technician, hygienist or dental nurse. You do not have to submit evidence, but there is a possibility they may ask you to present your certificates. There is no getting away from continual development.

Facilitating change

I have been with Dental Arts Studio for almost six years and my bosses, Dr Malhan and Dr Solanki, have always keen on carrying out in-house training. I was given the task of Not carrying this out, which at first I found stressful. After all, I had never taught anyone anything in my life. Despite the stress, I learned to create training material and teach and as a result, I became more confident in my role due to the work that I had put in.

In stating the obvious, as discussed, this should make us all comfortable with the effect of CPD and what it will bring to the industry on a whole. The face of dentistry changes all the time. Not just with technology as far as equipment and dental materials, but also with legislation and health and safety. The only hour of CPD. Then more recently, we have implemented training sessions to take place once every three months. We close the practice down for three hours of the day and I host the training.

The subjects that are chosen are based on the problems that me to create effective material. I also inject some fun in there to keep the staff interested and motivated.

However, in saying this I cannot always leave the problems I find for a three-month period, so a short-list is made and they are addressed either one-on-one with the particular staff member, or the problems are raised in weekly staff meetings. If it is in relation to reception in particular, the issues are raised in the 8.30am morning huddle meetings that take place every day with all of the receptionists.

This training has got to maintain momentum and be revised regularly, seeing as practice staff can be busy and can forget what has been taught to them. The more persistent you are with your mission to create a sound and stable work environment, the more the staff will absorb what is being taught.

As Barack Obama says: ‘Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.’

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Sharon Holmes

Originally from South Africa, Sharon Holmes moved to the UK in 2002. She thoroughly enjoys her position as business development manager at Dental Arts Studio and her role in the dental industry, which has moulded her into a winner in her field. She believes that her position is based on common sense.

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DENTSPLY Cross Infection Control Team

Working together to stamp out cross-infection

Miss Sani-Tip is transparent in her mission to ensure that each patient is protected from nasty bugs. Being plastic is a good trait and she prides herself on being much more hygienic than metal 3-in-1 syringe tips which can lead to all sorts of cross infection risks. She is bendy - useful for different positions, and she can be used with any 3-in-1 syringe with her appropriate adaptor. May be that’s why she’s so popular - she’s used by 73% of clinicians who use plastic tips*. She’s clearly the better choice - be seen with her!

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