DDU introduces insurance for cosmetic procedures

The Dental Defence Union (DDU) has introduced special indemnity insurance for dentists who want to offer botulinum toxin and non-permanent resorbable dermal fillers to patients' lips or face, but excluding the neck.

The new insurance supplement, for existing members, was introduced in response to the growing popularity of cosmetic procedures over the last decade and the number of dentists wishing to undertake such work.

Rupert Hoppenbrouwers, Head of the DDU, said: 'Over the past decade the nature of dentistry has changed, with a greater emphasis on improving the aesthetic appearance of the teeth and face. An increasing number of dentists are now providing cosmetic procedures, such as botulinum toxin and dermal filler injections, in addition to other aesthetic procedures such as tooth whitening and veneers.

'The DDU is constantly working to provide the best possible defence and dento-legal services to our members. This is why I am delighted, on behalf of the DDU, to be able to offer this insurance in response to members’ requests and in the interests of patients.'

The supplement, which was introduced on 1 April this year, is only available to dentists and evidence of adequate and appropriate training will be required. Dentists wishing to extend their membership to include these procedures should contact the DDU membership department on 0800 085 0614.

Dentists offer Botox and fillings

A growing number of dentists are offering Botox injections alongside routine dentistry.

Dr Bob Khanna, on average one in four dentists are now able to offer Botox injections, as well as anti-ageing fillers and facial peels, a survey found. Botox is offered between £150 and £1,000, fillers for £200 to £2,200 and skin peels from £125.

Commenting on the shift, Dr Khanna said: 'Dentists' training in anatomy, and sterile good practice made them preferable to backstreet beauty salons for this sort of procedure.'

Dr Anoop Maini, a London dentist, said that about a quarter of his workload now involved anti-ageing fillers and facial peels, mainly for women aged between 40 and 50. He tells patients, 'I can give you the teeth of a 35-year-old, but unless you have work to remove the wrinkles around your mouth, you will still have the face of a 55-year-old.'

Online forum prioritises research into primary care dentistry

A new online forum designed to identify the priorities for research into primary care dentistry was launched at the British Dental Conference and Exhibition earlier this month.

The online discussion forum will allow dentists to voice their opinions on clinical issues and scenarios encountered in everyday practice and get definitive responses on questions they need answers to. As well as providing participating practitioners with the best available evidence about topics in an easily accessible format, the forum will also identify the research priorities of practitioners in everyday practice.

Rupert Hoppenbrouwers, the DDU’s Head of Research, Training and Education, said: 'The DDU’s Shirley Glasstone Hughes Trust research fund is working to meet the needs of practitioners. The supplement, which was introduced on 1 April this year, is

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