Delivering the best

A n e-learning solution to help dental practices implement government guidance on improving patients' oral health has been launched by a learning resource provider.

The two-hour programme, Preventing the Spread of Untreated Caries – Delivering Better Oral Health, was launched at the British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry (BASCD) conference in Manchester.

The training DVD was developed by Smile-on at the request of NHS England in 2007, by the Department of Health.

Dr Gill Davies, specialist in dental public health for Manchester Community Care, who wrote some of the educational material on the DVD said: 'It was sent to all NHS practices in England in 2007, by the Department of Health.

She added: 'A variety of teaching methods are used, including short film sequences, illustrations of key points and indications of the sources of the evidence on which the prevention toolkit is based. It is interactive in that it asks questions about attitudes at the start of each topic and then checks on knowledge gained at the end.'

Relevant resources are provided to support the activity.

The training DVD is aimed at all members of the clinical team as they should all be involved in giving consistent preventive messages. It can be watched from start to finish or dip in and out of topics as they choose – the screen is very user friendly and constantly shows the stage that the viewer has reached.

For any dental professional who is interested in implementing a more preventive approach to oral care, or needs more help to impart the messages or provide the preventive care described in Delivering Better Oral Health, the 'Prevention in Practice' DVD is a rich source of support.

Helen Falcon, postgraduate dental dean for NHS Education South Central, was also involved in developing the DVD. She said: 'Preventing disease and improving health is the most important thing we can do for our patients and it’s something that all the dental team can actively engage with.'

She called it a ‘great privilege’ to have been involved with its development and added: ‘You will see how one practice has adopted new ways of working, learn about the difficulties that individuals in a practice might face when changing to an evidence based approach to prevention and learn more about how to carry out effective short interventions with patients.’

The e-learning package can either be downloaded online or bought as a CD-ROM.

Janelle Montgomery, project manager at Smile-on, said: 'The programme aims to improve knowledge and understanding, and help consistent and effective delivery of evidence-based health messages by the dental team.

With the programme, dental professionals will be able to provide evidence-based health care interventions that impact on oral and general health and promote behaviour change in patients to improve self-care.'

The DVD also looks at patient self-care and how practitioners can raise self-care issues with patients, as well as includes oral health messages as well as advising patients on healthy diets, sensible drinking, and smoking cessation.

Users can see actual interviews from a dentist and a dental care professional who have successfully implemented the toolkit into their practice.

The programme is for all dental professionals from dentists to orthodontists to hygienists. Each DVD provides two hours of CPD.

For more information on the programme, call 020 7400 8989 or email info@smile-on.com.
Editorial comment

A big applaud

It’s that time of the year again when the profession shows its solidarity as it pulls together to support National Smile Month. But what would we do without stalwart organisations such as the British Dental Health Foundation?

Dentists and DCPs cannot be solely responsible for sending out good oral hygiene messages. They are busy enough juggling UDAs and keeping up with new regulations to say the least. Nevertheless, without national – and now transatlantic oral health campaigns, the profession would be in dire straits. So is the message getting through?

Well let’s consider the pro-active evidence going on right under our noses this very minute. Dental packs are being distributed to school children in Doncaster; Peterborough is handing out Brushing for Life packs to parents of babies and children, while The Oral Health Promotion Team for West Sussex Primary Care Trust has invited all primary schools in West Sussex to join the National Smile Month Brushathon during the week of 8 June. It’s pretty impressive don’t you think?

As Dr Nigel Carter, the Foundation’s chief executive said: ‘The Foundation is very excited to be working on the second trans-Atlantic National Smile Month and we look forward to working alongside partners and thousands of event organisers in both countries. Dentists and hygienists can now truly be said to be on the front line of healthcare, and this campaign and our extensive range of educational resources provide the ideal platform to spread the message.’

The Foundation should be feeling not just excited by all this activity but damn right proud of all it has achieved.

BACD study nights

The British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry is putting on two study nights for those wanting to improve their knowledge of cosmetic dentistry.

The Birmingham Study club will be held on 18 June.

The guest speaker will be Dr Ian Buckle, who will be lecturing on Single Crown to Full Arch restoration. With over 20 years of both NHS and private experience behind him, Dr Buckle is a senior clinical instructor in London, New York, and Palm Beach.

The British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (BACD) also presents the Nottingham Study Club on 24 June, where the guest speaker will be Dr Ken Harris. Completing complex reconstructive procedures within the field of cosmetic dentistry is Dr Harris’s forte.

He will be speaking on the Kois Deprogrammer, a vital appliance that can be made simply by technicians.

For more information or a booking form please contact Suzy Rovlands on 02082418526 or email suzy@bacd.com.

Together, guiding the way to long-term oral health

Recommending Oral-B® Power toothbrushes can help your patients reach their long-term oral health goals. That’s because the unique small round brush-head design and the oscillating-rotating cleaning action ensure a superior clean in hard-to-reach areas, versus a regular manual brush.

Together, we can make a difference.
School brushathons and a competition to find out who has the cleanest teeth are just some of the events being held during this year’s National Smile Month.

The campaign, backed by companies such as Oral B, aims to increase public awareness of the benefits of good oral health-care, kicks off this month. Dental surgeries, hospitals, Primary Care Trusts, schools, colleges and businesses across the UK will be taking part in the British Dental Health Foundation’s (BDHF) annual campaign which runs from 17 May to 16 June.

This year’s campaign message ‘Look After Yourself, Brush for Health’ highlights the systemic links between oral and overall health. Recent research has linked oral health to heart disease, diabetes, strokes and pregnancy problems, not to mention tooth loss and familiar dental issues, emphasising the importance of good oral hygiene.

Last year’s campaign was run in partnership with Oral Health America leading to the first National Smile Month to run simultaneously on both sides of the Atlantic. This is being done again this year.

Specially-designed National Smile Month products are now available to promote the best ways to good oral health and help youngsters enjoy care routines.

Dr Nigel Carter, the Foundation’s chief executive said: ‘The Foundation is very excited to be working on the second trans-Atlantic National Smile Month and we look forward to working alongside partners and thousands of event organisers in both countries.

Evidence of the systemic links between oral health and overall body health has been mounting considerably in recent years. Dentists and hygienists can now truly be said to be on the frontline of healthcare, and this campaign and our extensive range of educational resources provide the ideal platform to spread the message.’

Support for the campaign comes from platinum sponsors Oral-B, Wrigley’s ORBIT Complete sugar-free chewing gum and Tesco Dental Insurance.

Denplan, the dental payment plan specialist, is also supporting National Smile Month and has created an awareness poster, which also doubles as an information leaflet, so that member dentists can not only promote National Smile Month to their local press, but their businesses too.

Roger Matthews, chief dental officer at Denplan said: ‘There is mounting evidence that people who suffer gum disease are more at risk of serious general health conditions.

‘National Smile Month is something that we here at Denplan support whole-heartedly and our new posters can help practices encourage their patients to maintain good oral health while also promoting their practice.’

Campaign guides from the BDHF featuring event ideas and resources have been sent to each practice in the UK. The website www.nationalsmilemonth.org serves as a hub for health professionals and event organisers, incorporating helpful hints and tips, useful information and a chance to report on activities and upload their own photographs for posterity.

To order your own National Smile Month resources or for more information go online or contact the Foundation on 0870 770 0000.