GDPUK members have been following the developments of the Jimmy Steele review of NHS Dentistry with interest, and have been able to view reports of his group's travelling roadshow across the country. As well as gathering evidence and forming opinions, it seems that the ideas Professor Steele is describing are being modified as he and his group travel, meeting dentists and stakeholders.

One piece of evidence though might be disconcerting – at his event in London, only about 50 interested people turned up. Maybe too many false dawns? Colleagues are hoping that this report will be published before the LDC Conference in June, but perhaps its publication the week after is more realistic. Ann Keen, Minister with responsibility for dentistry, has said in Parliament that the Department of Health will consider this report very carefully. Time will tell.

In the meantime, on GDPUK, literally hundreds of other topics have been discussed. Here is an idea of some of them: waterline cleaning, publication of the final version of HTM 01-05, the passing of former GDPs. The implant dentistry programme at the University of Warwick is designed to uphold the lofty aims of the profession and void the invoice. The other side of the coin is to be aware that a care home, telephone company, credit card company and so on will continue to address their bills to the executor of the deceased. It is, of course, one of the duties of an executor to settle bills such as this. What would you do? Come and tell us at http://www.gdpuk.com.

Clinical cases have also been discussed, good pictures and good advice dispensed. Sometimes the poster knows the answer, and is looking for reassurance or almost setting a quiz.

The subject of what a practice should do if a course of treatment has been completed (often a substantial one) and sadly the patient dies having been satisfied with the completed treatment, in receipt of the invoice but before settling the invoice. This subject has been tackled on GDPUK in the past and there are always two sides to the discussion. One idea is to uphold the lofty aims of the profession and void the invoice. The other side of the coin is to be aware that a care home, telephone company, credit card company and so on will continue to address their bills to the executor of the deceased. It is, of course, one of the duties of an executor to settle bills such as this. What would you do? Come and tell us at http://www.gdpuk.com.

About the author
Dr Anthony V Jacobs
started the GDPUK emailing list in 1997, and the group membership is now just under 2,000. The list is read in all corners of the UK dental profession as well as by laboratories, and the trade and dental industry. Qualifying in London in 1979, Dr Jacobs is now in partnership with Dr Stephen Lazarus, practicing at 406 Dental in Manchester. He enjoys his profession, and takes pride in providing both simple and complex gentle dentistry, as well as caring for families in a relaxed atmosphere. Dr Jacobs has a long-term commitment to continuing professional development, both for himself, and for the profession in general through his mailing list. He has been a member of the British Dental Association (BDA) since 1975, and is presently chairman of the Bury and Rochdale Oral Health Advisory Group, as well as vice chair of the Bury and Rochdale Local Dental Committee (LDC). Dr Jacobs also sits on the committee and helps to organise the annual conference of Local Dental Committees.

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