Earl Howe takes on role as minister for dentistry

Ministerial portfolios finalised; Earl Howe takes on dentistry with exception of fluoridation; new government releases coalition plans

Frederick Howe has been appointed as the new dentistry minister by the coalition government.

As the new Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Quality, he will also be responsible for NHS Constitution, NHS Commissioning Reform, Primary Care, Medicines, Pharmacy & Industry, NICE, Research and Development, Innovation and Finance and Review of Arm's Length Bodies.

Earl Howe has been opposition spokesman for the NHS for 25 years, has a wide range of hands-on experience and we will offer support, as a district nurse, and supporting GPs and nurses working in palliative care. And Earl Howe was opposition spokesman for Health and Social Services in the House of Lords from 1997.

He added: “Together, we will build an NHS in which the patient shares in making decisions; where quality standards are evidence-based and form the basis of the design of services and their management; and where the objective is consistent improvement in the outcomes we achieve, so that they are amongst the best in the world. We will create a more integrated public health service at the heart of healthcare policy and we will offer support, security and services to those in need of personal and social care.”

The Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition government have revealed their full agreement in a document entitled The Coalition: Our Programme for Government. The 50-page document summarises government policy aims across all departments, including the NHS:

It says The government believes that the NHS is an important expression of our national values. We are committed to an NHS that is free at the point of use and available to everyone based on need, not the ability to pay.

We want to free NHS staff from political micromanagement, increase democratic participation in the NHS and make the NHS more accountable to the patients that it serves. That way we will drive up standards, support professional responsibility, deliver better value for money and create a healthier nation.

In terms of dentistry it states that: He will introduce a new dentistry contract that will focus on achieving good dental health and increasing access to NHS dentistry, with additional focus on the oral health of schoolchildren.

News

DCP ARF
The General Dental Council (GDC) is reminding all dental care professionals not to miss the 31 July deadline to pay their annual retention fee (ARF) to remain on the register. All dental care professionals must be registered with the GDC to work in the UK. The fee is different for dental nurses, dental technicians, dental therapists, dental hygienists, clinical dental technicians and orthodontic therapists. It's important to remember that if they don't pay, they will be putting their registration at risk. The GDC will not be able to accept any payments received after 31 July.

Military healthcare awards
The Welsh Assembly Government is asking people to nominate individuals or teams who provide care and support to service personnel for the Military and Civilian Health Partnership Awards (MCHA).

The UK-wide awards celebrate the partnership between the UK’s military and civilian health care workers, and are open to civilian health staff and military medics working within the Defence Medical Services, the NHS, and private or voluntary sectors. They honour the people, projects and services that provide military personnel (including Reserves), their families and dependants with the very best in health care and social care. Welsh Health Minister Edwina Hart said: "I am pleased that in the third year of these awards we have the opportunity again to celebrate the hard work, commitment and dedication shown by health professionals from across the public, private and voluntary sectors in caring for the men and women of the Armed Forces. I would encourage people to consider nominating either themselves or others for these awards, as it is important that we recognise their contribution to improving the lives of service personnel and veterans." Details on the awards, including how to apply or nominate, are available at: www.militaryhealthawards.org. The closing date for nominations is 31 July. Nominations received after 31 July will not be accepted.

A fairy good movie
Denplan, the payment plan provider teams up with Hollywood family film to promote oral health.

Payment plan provider teams up with Hollywood family film to promote oral health.

Legal event
Chris Baker looks back on Manchester event focusing on legal issue in dentistry.

Reeferrals
Organise a referral evening at your practice and highlight your services, says Dr Dattani.

Sedation stories
Dental Protection discusses various ways to minimise risk when using sedation on patients.

Esential Knowledge

Dr. Howard Stean
Clinician, author and tutor

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June 7-13, 2010

Vol. 4 No. 15

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