News in brief

Dental honours

The British Dental Association's director of policy and professional services, Linda Walman, has been awarded an OBE, and Eric Stanley Nash, formerly postgraduate dean at the dental school at University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, has been awarded an OBE. Both awards were for services to healthcare and were announced in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Access research

Nine out of 10 people who tried to see an NHS dentist in the last two years were successful, according to the consumer organisation Which? Helen McCallum, Which?'s director of policy and communications said: 'The common belief is that NHS dentists are as rare as hens' teeth, but it's not so much the number of dentists that's the problem, as how easy they are to access.

The General Dental Council (GDC) has issued advice to dental professionals, after the World Health Organisation declared a global flu pandemic following an emergency meeting. The UK's Health Departments have also issued detailed advice and guidelines.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) director general, Dr Margaret Chan said: We have evidence to suggest we are seeing the first pandemic of the 21st century. However, she added: Moving to pandemic phase six does not mean you should do it and check that you are covered by indemnity.

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A pandemic is declared on geographical terms as the virus spreads.

The swine flu (H1N1) virus first emerged in Mexico in April and has since spread to 74 countries.

In its survey, 68 per cent of people who tried to see an NHS dentist in the last two years were successful, according to the consumer organisation Which? Helen McCallum, Which?'s director of policy and communications said: 'The common belief is that NHS dentists are as rare as hens' teeth, but it's not so much the number of dentists that's the problem, as how easy they are to access.

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However, it also warned: ‘As health professionals, you should not let your own state of health put your patients at risk. If you become unwell you should follow appropriate advice including any local measures which may be in place.’

The Department of Health (DH) has also issued its own guidance and has advised dental professionals that all patients should be screened for symptoms of flu before attending, the practice by telephone and again on arrival at the practice.

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More emergencies?

The number of people seeking emergency NHS dental treatment has risen in the last year, but ‘these figures should be put into perspective’, says Health Minister Ann Keen.

Future planning

If you want to attract new patients to your practice or let your business achievements be known, you really need to implement a public relations plan.

Retirement funds

Now is the perfect time to consider your financial options if you want to reap the benefits from your pension fund in the next five years from now.

Hard graft

As the bone-augmentation debate continues, Ali Abdelatif highlights the arguments for and against grafting, and looks at some of the different types of grafting systems.

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