Guidance is ‘confusing’ – Dental Protection

The new local anaesthetic guidance for hygienists and therapists has been criticised as ‘confusing’.

Dental Protection claims that the recent order to amend the Medicines Act 1968 has failed to create a situation that is universally applicable to dental hygienists and therapists (DCPs).

It said that instead it has had the effect of ‘distinguishing between the method of payment applicable to the treatment when it comes to deciding how local anaesthetic and high-content fluoride products (the ‘items’) should be delivered to a patient during their course of treatment’.

The patient group directive was primarily designed for use in NHS settings and the Department of Health now advises that they are not valid for treatment that is provided privately.

Apart from being confusing to the clinical team involved, the situation seems somewhat illogical, said Dental Protection.

A spokesperson for Dental Protection said: “It also flies in the face of DH’s long-held view that there should be no negative comparison drawn between NHS treatment and private treatment.”

Dental Protection’s spokesman added: “At best it is totally confusing and may even act as a barrier to patients receiving treatment that they both need and want.”

Until the situation has been resolved by a further amendment to the legislation Dental Protection is advising any dental hygienist or therapist wishing to supply these ‘items’ to a patient whilst working in a private practices or seeing an NHS patient privately, to continue to use a patient-specific directive (written prescription).

New guidelines for dental implants

New guidelines for the provision of dental implants and the care of dental implant patients have been drawn up by the Academy of Osseointegration.

Dr Michael Norton (pictured) who runs the Norton Implants surgery in Harley Street in London, was asked by the Academy to form a task force to review their 2008 guidelines.

The new guidelines have been published in the International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Implants.

Dr Norton, who runs the Norton Implants surgery in Harley Street in London, said: “The need to represent all the specialties as well as the general dental practitioner was foremost in my mind. To this end I set out to establish a task force with representation from the three main mono-specialties as well as the general dental arena.”

While the document is based largely on the recommendations established by the specialist boards based in the United States, Dr Norton did his utmost to ensure that UK and European guidelines were equally well represented.

The document includes recommendations made by European Union, The Royal College of Surgeons (Edinburgh), The Faculty of General Dental Practitioners and The European Association of Dental Implantology.

Dentist comes fifth in beauty pageant

A young dentist has come fifth in the Miss Professional beauty pageant.

Jennifer Bate (pictured), who is sponsored by dental products company, Schottlander, has also just been awarded her Diploma of Membership of the Joint Dental Faculty of the Royal College of Surgeons (MDF) certification.

The 24-year-old, who works at Norton Implants surgery in Harlow, Essex, has already won the title Miss Charity after raising funds for the Variety Club and Bridge2Aid.

Now that she is a qualified dentist she hopes to stay in the Warwickshire area to practise.

Ms Bate said: “I am passionate about what I do. It is so rewarding to do this work, to be able to free people from pain, and give them a wonderful smile.”

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Editorial comment

Here comes the summer!

Well, Dental Tribune is heading off for its holidays as the hot days keep coming and the kids get off school. But never fear, we will be busy working behind the scenes to bring you all the in-depth news and views as we interview people such as Earl Howe, Minister for dentistry. We also have great features in store for the Autumn including a look at a new mouthguard technology and a chat with a laboratory owner about the future of dental labs and the importance of communication between labs and clinicians.

See you in September...

SEPTEMBER IS...

The entire dental team can get involved in the 2010 campaign focusing on ‘Discover 3 Essentials for an Even Healthier Mouth’.

Practice packs contain educational materials, motivational stickers, patient samples and materials to enable dental teams to create their own display to drive awareness of the 3 Essentials for an Even Healthier Mouth.

The 2010 interactive CPD programme ‘Putting Prevention into Practice’ providing verifiable CPD will be available to download by visiting www.colgateohm.co.uk from 1st September 2010.

If your practice has not previously been involved in Colgate Oral Health Month, please call 0161 665 5881 to register by 20th August 2010.

M outh cancer charity the Mouth Cancer Foundation is challenging 1,000 dentists to walk 15 million steps between them to help combat mouth cancer.

Places are filling up fast for the Mouth Cancer Foundation that takes place on Saturday 18th September 2010, in Kensington Gardens, London. In 2009 in excess of £60k was raised which goes to help patients and their families, like mouth cancer survivor Michelle Morton.

Michelle, 26 from Hastings, East Sussex was only 22 when she was diagnosed with Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma in June 2006.

Michelle says: “I had a large tumour that came from the Nasopharynx, down my left nostril. I was treated by my GP for six months for what was thought to be a sinus infection. I was eventually referred to ENT at the local hospital and diagnosed. By this point the cancer had also spread to a lymph gland in my neck. I went through six cycles of high dose chemotherapy (Cisplatin & 5FU), followed by six and a half weeks of Radiotherapy.

“During treatment I dropped to 6stone 10lb and I vomited every day for about three months! The cure is far harder than the disease! I'm feeling REALLY good now. I'm working full time again and I love my life! As far as they're concerned I’m cancer free”.

“I support the Mouth Cancer Foundation as they helped me so much during my battle with cancer. I want to make younger people more aware of the symptoms and risk factors of Mouth Cancer. It happened to me and it can happen to anyone. We aren’t indestructible!”

‘To be honest there were times I wanted to go to sleep and not wake up’
New regulations for Scottish NHS dentists

New regulations have come into force for NHS dentists in Scotland.

The 2010 regulations consolidate the 1996 regulations and various amending legislation introduced over the years.

It also extends the dental list system to include, for the first time, Dental Corporate Bodies and those working as assistants in general dental practice.

Traditionally, dental lists only included dentists working as ‘principals’ in general practice, whether as practice owners or associates.

All dentists working for Dental Corporate Bodies will be under a duty to join dental lists but inclusion will be voluntary for the Dental Corporate Bodies themselves.

Hugh Harvie, head of dental services (Scotland) for Dental Protection, said: "The 2010 regulations provide a welcome update to the law governing the provision of general dental services in Scotland and are intended to increase the protection of patients and NHS resources alike.

"As a caring profession, the dental profession in Scotland can only welcome any measures intended to protect patients. They widen the existing differences in the arrangements for NHS dentistry north and south of the border, and address some areas of concern in England and Wales."

"Members in Scotland can be assured of Dental Protection’s ongoing commitment to any difficulties in understanding and issues arising from the implementation of the 2010 regulations."

The 2010 regulations also give the Health Board power to suspend a dentist or body corporate from the dental list in a limited range of circumstances.

Delegates get Rapid Relief at Barcelona IADR event

The IADR in Barcelona was the place to be to find out more about the latest offering in the Sensodyne range.

A spokeswoman for GSK commented: “The product was released in April but the IADR conference was one of the first chances for clinicians to find out more about the product. We were delighted with the response from delegates, with large numbers of delegates coming to the stand at the exhibition to ask for more information, details of the product and supporting clinical studies.”

Dr Soha Dattani, Director Expert Marketing commented: “We are constantly researching and developing new ways to help those that experience tooth sensitivity. We were aware that many are not actively addressing the problem, with sufferers changing the way they consume certain food and drinks or avoiding them altogether to avoid the pain of sensitivity. In response, Sensodyne Rapid Relief has been formulated to provide a quick, easy and effective solution.”

Whipps Cross VT Scheme Prize Winner

Dr Sabina Bidgol, Vocational Trainee based at Chingford Mount Dental Practice, has won the 2010 prize for Best Case Presentation for the Whipps Cross Vocational Training Group. The champagne and Prize Certificate were presented by Eloise Nutton of Denplan, which sponsored the award.

Dr Bidgol had selected a complex restorative case for her case study which involved multiple dental disciplines including endodontics, periodontics, oral surgery, prosthetics and bridge work.

“I am delighted”, said Dr Raj Gogna, Principal Dentist at Chingford Mount Dental Practice, “Sabina chose a very challenging case and the extensive treatment took several months. She was able to deliver a high standard of treatment and I am very pleased that she managed to achieve such a level of competence.”

“Yes, I’ve really had a fantastic year”, said Dr Bidgol, “My clinical exposure has been extensive and I’m pleased to have been part of the Whipps Cross Scheme”.

Having completed her vocational year, Dr Bidgol leaves Chingford Mount Dental to take up a position as an SHO in Maxillofacial Surgery at The Eastman Dental Hospital. However, she enjoyed working in a broad-based family practice and hopes to return to private practice following her hospital post.