The indemnity organisation, Dental Protection, is set to take its Horizons programme, on how to manage difficult people, to Scotland.

Dental Protection has run its Horizons series of events in England and Northern Ireland and will now be running it in Scotland.

The programme will be held in four cities in Scotland this year, and two more next year, to allow more dental professionals the opportunity to attend.

The team-focused, evening events will see renowned speakers talk on relevant and practical subjects that will be useful for all members of the practice team.

During October, Horizons will visit Inverness, Aberdeen, Stirling and Dumfries, with events in Glasgow and Edinburgh following in April 2010.

Speakers, including Hugh Harvie, Kevin Lewis (Inverness and Aberdeen) and John Tiernan (Stirling and Dumfries), will be talking at the sessions, entitled The Good, The Bad and The Ugly, which will explore the management of difficult people and difficult situations that arise through the practice - from chairside to reception.

Kevin Lewis, director of Dental Protection, said: “We were overwhelmed by the response to last year's Horizons event, and are pleased to be running another series.

“Our aim is to bring quality programmes closer to home for more of our members, and in that spirit this same programme has recently been taken to our members in 17 cities all over Australia.”

The evening includes 2 hours of verifiable Continuing Professional Development (CPD) (pending) for all members of the dental team who are GDC-registered.

Tickets cost £60 for members and £75 for non-members. Tickets for DPL Xtra Practices and their staff are priced at £50 per person.

Further information and contacting can be obtained by Sarah Garry on 020 7359 1579 or email sarah.garry@mps.org.uk.

BDA calls for action on Steele Report

The British Dental Association (BDA) is urging the Department of Health to take action and start consulting on the proposals put forward by Prof Jimmy Steele in his report on NHS dentistry.

The BDA's call comes after the NHS Information Centre revealed there has been a small increase in the number of patients accessing NHS dentistry in the six months up to 30 June 2009 and a fall in the number of complex dental treatments carried out between 2003/04 and 2008/09.

John Milne, chair of the BDA's General Dental Practice Committee, called the continued increase in the number of patients able to access NHS dental care 'good news for those who are benefiting from it'.

He added: "These reports also highlight a change in the treatment patterns of care provided by NHS dentists, with decreases in the amount of many more complicated treatments compared to 2003-2004. This change is in line with the aim of the reforms to reduce the amount of complex treatments being provided."

"What's important now is that the conclusions of the review of dentistry led by Professor Steele are properly consulted on. For the good of dentists and patients alike, the reforms arising from them must be piloted to deliver an NHS dental service that assesses dentistry in terms of the health outcomes it delivers and provides a quality service to all who use it."

Shadow health minister, Mike Penning, called the fall in the number of complex treatments 'a failure for the profession, for patients, and for the wider NHS'.

Editorial comment
Please allow me to introduce myself

"Hi, I'm Troy McClure. You may remember me from such films as..."

For those who aren’t fans of The Simpsons, that was just a cheeky little way to get you into the introductory mood. I’m actually Lisa Townshend, previously Editor of a well known monthly publication in the dental press and now Editor of Dental Tribune UK.

First of all, thanks to the many people who have wished me well in my new role. I’m looking forward to continuing the good work of previous Editor Penny Palmer, and ensuring that Dental Tribune remains the must read newspaper in the dental profession.

With this in mind, in this issue I have spoken with Prof Jimmy Steele, who discussed with me the Review, its implications and life beyond the Review as the new head of Newcastle Dental School.

Of course, although I am not new to the dental profession, I am still new to the Dental Tribune family. This is where you come in. Please get in touch and let me know what you think about the newspaper, what you like, what you don’t and anything in between!

E-mail me at lisa@dentaltribuneuk.com

The entire dental team can get involved in the 2009 campaign focusing on Delivering Prevention in Practice.

Practice packs contain educational materials, motivational stickers, patient samples and materials to enable dental teams to create their own display to drive awareness of oral health within their practices.

The 2009 interactive CPD programme Delivering Prevention in Practice, providing 4 hours verifiable CPD is available to download by visiting www.colgateohm.co.uk

If your practice has not previously been involved in Colgate Oral Health Month, please call 0845 257 3468 to register.