GDPUK round-up

Tony Jacobs shares the most recent snippets of conversation from his ever-growing GDPUK online community

Although there hasn’t been a lot of attention-grabbing news in the world of dentistry through the last few weeks, GDPUKers have still found time to air topics they feel strongly about.

One colleague was able to share a letter he had received from his dental contracts team at the PCT reminding dental colleagues that during the summer months, when the weather is warmer, they may be off work more, but reminding the colleagues that they must still provide cover for patients in pain even if not at the practice. The letter had four signatories, all dental nurses working in the dental contracting department of that PCT. This letter raised ire on the GDPUK forum, but no one ever thinks that this item is the last straw to start any revolt against the unscientific, unreasonable levels of contracting demands placed upon general dental practitioners by the Government, which claims the high moral ground yet bullies the profession.

Some other topics briefly covered at this time were questions about spontaneous pulpal haemorrhage, NTI TSS appliances, the recording of telephone calls and there was longer set of messages when a colleague reported his problems following illness and the wording of his BDA associate contract.

The arrangements should the swine flu pandemic become more serious or widespread were discussed, and there has been guidance given by the GDC as well as other bodies. Colleagues on GDPUK are also knowledgeable about the bird flu and other pandemic arrangements too.

A question was asked about saliva substitutes. Some patients have situations whereby there is no saliva being produced, and as sometimes happens when experts are asked, there are several varying answers, but the overall consensus was that this is a major problem, there is no real substitute, and patients clearly suffer if they have this condition.

There was some discussion about a future course, and perhaps there will be a report in due course on GDPUK, on the role of the state in dentistry. Perhaps this could be the subject of a future textbook, or PhD paper.

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Call for boys to have HPV vaccine

The British Dental Health Foundation has backed calls by leading cancer researchers for boys to be given the HPV vaccine to prevent them getting mouth cancer.

Leading academics have pointed to the links between the cancer causing human papilloma virus (HPV) in mouth cancer cases, particularly amongst young men contracting the virus via oral sex.

Currently the gardasil vaccine preventing HPV is only given to girls to combat cervical cancer cases.

The British Dental Health Foundation is backing these calls.

Foundation chief executive Dr Nigel Carter said: “Mouth cancer hits some 5,000 people each year in the UK, killing one person every five hours.

“It is time we took action to prevent this hidden killer, which is beginning to affect more and more young people. Expert studies suggest HPV could become a leading cause of mouth cancer so let us be proactive and plan against this threat.”

The government sensibly rose above controversy to give young girls anti-HPV jabs to young girls to curb cervical cancer. Mouth cancer affects far more people than cervical cancer, so surely it is time to widen the programme to boys.”

Speaking at a cancer conference in Melbourne in Australia, British expert Prof. Margaret Stanley of Cambridge University said: “These HPVs don’t just cause cancer in women. They cause cancer in men. Cancer in the mouth, cancer in the anus and those cancers are very hard to treat.”

“As an anti-cancer prevention strategy, I would have thought immunising boys was a sensible way to go.”

Lemonchase now sole UK distributor

UK distributor Lemonchase is now the sole UK distributor for EC Dental Solutions products.

The company, established in April 2005, aims to offer surgeons and dentists expert advice and the finest in magnification, lighting and ancillary equipment. It is headed up by two faces well known to the surgical and dental communities, Nick Lemon and Mark Chase, who have long specialised in magnification and lighting. They offer a one-stop shop for surgeons needing magnifying loupes and for dentists interested in dental loupes and dental microscopes.

Commenting on the news, Nick said, “We’ve been on the lookout for high quality, sensibly priced consumable products to create a repeat business division of the company. EC Dental Solution’s products fit that brief perfectly and are proving very popular with existing customers and dentists nationwide.”

The range currently consists of premium diamond and carbide burs, high-speed handpieces both fibre and non fibre optic and hygienist prophy paste in disposable cups. The diamond burs are individually packed, pre-sterilised and can be treated as single use. The high-speeds are compatible with the big handpiece brands such as KAVO, W&H, Bien Air, NSK, Star etc., and due to the move to dental dishwashers and central sterilisation are proving an economic alternative.

Over the next six months the range will be extended to include the following products:

1. Fiber post
2. Dental instruments
3. Fluoride varnish
4. Nano-composite
5. Hygiene scalers and composite instruments

For information on how you can purchase these, go to the industry news pages 26-29.