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**Retirement fee**

Just over 4,000 dental care professionals (DCPs) have been removed from the General Dental Council register for failing to pay the annual retirement fee (ARF), and 651 other DCPs have specifically asked to be removed for reasons including taking a career break or retiring.

Letters informing registrants who have not paid their ARF that they are being removed from the register were sent out on 18 August. Primary Care Trusts, Health Boards, Deanseries and indemnity providers have also been informed.

**CERK updated**

The book Clinical Examination and Record Keeping: Good Practice Guidelines has been updated in line with the latest guidance from the General Dental Council (GDC), the British Dental Association, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and the Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) (FGDP(UK)).

Where possible, the book includes parallel guidance on Scottish standards regulations.

The updated edition, which advises and informs the clinician on the practical and legal aspects of record-keeping, whilst complying with clinical governance, is available now.

**Dentistry website**

The UK website, the Cosmetic Dentistry Guide, is now the world’s most visited cosmetic dentistry website, according to Alexa, the web information company. Viewed by more than 140,000 visitors a month and climbing, the website has now overtaken the American website www.mynicesmile.com. The site includes easy to understand information about cosmetic dental procedures, the latest news and innovations in cosmetic dentistry and ‘Find a local cosmetic dentist’ directory.

**Scottish children**

The number of Scottish children registered with an NHS dentist has risen to its highest level ever. Statistics show that the number of children aged between three and five registered with a dentist has gone up by nearly 10 per cent in the last two years, to 80 per cent.

Leith has one of the best registration rates in the country, with 91.5 per cent registered with a dentist.

Public health minister Shona Robison claimed it shows that strategies to encourage parents to register their children are working.

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**Birmingham bonus**

New NHS dental practice for Birmingham’s Selly Oak area, plus dentists urged to look out for child abuse when treating kids.

**Survive and thrive**

Mark Garver looks at ways to ac-
knowledgement and change the loss in patient numbers in an increas-
ingly competitive market.

**Endless search**

Is it possible to find a financial ad-
viser that will work on your beh-
alf, without being influenced by commission payments from product providers?

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**‘Filthy’ dental laboratory put workers’ health at risk**

A ‘filthy’ dental laboratory that put workers’ health at risk, has been ordered to pay £4,000 in fines and court costs.

Rossford Dental Laboratory in Swinton, Greater Manchester, which specialises in manufactur-
ing dentures, gum shields and other dental products, was fined £2,500 and ordered to pay costs of £1,500 at Trafford Magistrates’ Court.

The laboratory was served with an Improvement Notice after a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspector visited the site and found it to be ‘extremely un-
clean’, putting the health of work-
ers at risk.

It was given two months to com-
ply with the Improvement Notice however it failed to clean up its act.

HSE Inspector Matt Greenly said the laboratory was in a ‘filthy state’ and ‘there were layers of de-
bris everywhere, the sinks were blocked and waste materials had been allowed to build up through-
out the premises’.

He added: ‘Improvement No-
tices should act as a wake-up call for companies to improve their health and safety procedures, for their own and their employees’ benefit. Unfortunately, in this case, Rossford appears to have ig-
ored the warning and carried on as normal.’

‘HSE realises that many com-
panies are under a lot of pressure at the moment, but that’s not an ex-
cuse for ignoring health and safety.’

“We will try to be understanding if people have genuine reasons for not meeting deadlines, but they can’t just hope they’ll get away without making any improve-
ments.”

HSE issues enforcement no-
tices when it finds serious breaches of health and safety reg-
ulations.

There are two types of notices - improvement and pro-
hibition.

Improvement Notices require any changes to be made within at least 21 days, and Prohibition No-
tices stop work from taking place until the specific improvements have been made.

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**Dentist suspended after failing to reveal £25,000 theft**

A dentist has been sus-
pended for a year after he ap-
p lied for a job with a primary care trust, despite be-
ing investigated by the police over a £25,000 theft.

Samit Ashok Shah, was con-
icted of stealing £25,000 from his employer, John Lewis Plc, on 4 August at Southwark Crown Court in London.

The General Dental Coun-
cil’s (GDC) Professional Con-
duct Committee heard that Mr Shah failed to disclose he was under investigation by the po-
lice when he applied to the GDC for registration on the Dentists Register and to the London Deansery for the position of spec-
ialist registrar in Dental Public Health. He also failed to disclose the criminal proceedings which led to his conviction on his appli-
cations for employment to the Highted Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the St. Mary’s NHS Trust.

Mr Shah admitted all of the heads of charge and his fitness to practise was found to be im-
paired by reason of his misconduct.

A spokesman for the GDC said: ‘The Committee was clear that this misconduct was not only dishonest, but also has a profound, adverse impact on the reputation of, and public confidence in, the profession.

However the Committee was
told that Mr Shah is an exception-
ally bright and valued dentist who is involved in volunteer and charity work. It also heard that at the time of the offence he was un-
der intense personal pressure.’

She added that the Committee ‘was satisfied that he has shown insight and remorse at having been convicted of dishonesty. The Committee was also very im-
pressed with the current level of professional support from senior collea-
gues.’

The Committee considered the matter to be very serious. However in the light of every-
thing it heard, it decided to sus-
pend him for a year.

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**Challenge Nepal**

Trekking Encounters looks at the benefits of volunteering your skills in one of the highest coun-
tries on earth.

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**Money Matters**

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**Education**

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