Editorial comment

Quality innovation – part one

To say hearing good news for the dental profession is ‘refreshing’ is a massive understatement. It is certainly well overdue—far, far overdue—that a Northern PCT is leading the way with initiatives on how to reward dentists for quality work instead of just paying them for numbers. The newly commissioned tenders for three dental practices in Bradford are certainly unique, and possibly the envy of many. For how can three lucky practices still get paid if they haven’t met their UDA targets, when others don’t get anything? It’s the luck of the draw when it comes to what PCT you have, but clearly Bradford is the best of the bunch so far. Quite how the ‘quality of work’ will be measured remains a mystery, but you can be sure it will be reported here first in Dental Tribune.

But that’s not all the good news. For if new time-limited General Dental Service contracts mean it is more unlikely that a contract would be terminated after five years without ‘a very good reason’ then hup, hip hooray. Other PCTs should watch and learn. London PCT staff are turning up unannounced at practices demanding to know where and if there are emergency drugs kits and the like. But isn’t the provider the responsible person for the contract?!

At least some dentists can feel rest assured that there is security and a living to be made post 2009. All we need now is for the other PCTs to wake up and smell the innovation. Like cattle, they are bound to follow.

Growing services

And even more good news via the BDTA! Apparently there were more than one million units of dental activity commissioned by PCTs last year with ‘many new practices opening.’ But how much of this is via the NHS remains a mystery. Obvi- ously, single-use endodontic instruments and oral hygiene and headpieces account for half the increase. This means no more than a rising trend towards cross-infection prevention and control, and fits in nicely with NHS aspirations.

Nevertheless, it is no surprise to hear that growth of the private sector is the biggest trend. With half the population visiting a dentist under the NHS, a quarter of these visits are attributed to private dentistry. The repercussions continue, with dental laboratories reporting big shifts. They lost a whopping 50 per cent of NHS work compared to pre- contract days, with private work growing to 54 per cent from 50 per cent.

Introducing NDurance™

The first truly unique breakthrough in Composite Resin Technology for over 30 years.

NDurance™, uniting two distinct new technologies – unique nano technology and proprietary dimmer acid chemistry – delivers naturally aesthetic looking anterior and posterior restorations that endure.

High Monomer Conversion - NDurance exhibits an unprecedented intraoral monomer conversion of 75%.

Low Volumetric Shrinkage - NDurance has one of the lowest volumetric shrinkage and shrinkage three* rates to yield greater marginal integrity and virtually eliminate postoperative sensitivity.

Excellent Compressive Strength - a combination of high bond strength and low modulus reduces the forces on increased toughness and superior wear resistance.

Superior Aesthetics and Radiopacity - available in 14 Shade shades, Universal Opalescent, Bleach-White and opalescent for exquisite aesthetics. NDurance also delivers unmatched radiographic diagnostic properties.

Try NDurance today. Contact your dental distributor or call FREE 0800 435 155 to see how the right chemistry can make all the difference.

NDurance, Engineered Chemistry for life.

Systemic debate

So the search for systemic disease link with periodontitis is confirmed at last at a day-long conference, The impact of oral disease on systemic health: What is the evidence and how big is the problem? With more people than ever before contracting Diabetes Mellitus, Dr Philip Preshaw is resolute with his links to periodontitis, as are other prestigious professors armed now with the scientific facts to back up their views. So now it’s over to the medical world to listen and take action. Let’s hope they do.
Conference confirms perio and systemic disease link

A prestigious panel addressed an audience of dentists, doctors and scientists at a day-long conference on: The impact of oral disease on systemic health: what is the evidence and how big is the problem?

The event at the QEII Conference Centre in London on Tuesday, September 9, was organised by the Oral and Dental Research Trust (ODRT). Its chairman, Professor Naain Wilson introduced the event, which was sponsored by Colgate. In his introduction he said: ‘A strategic review of oral and dental research in the UK was published by the British Society for Dental Research. From this arose a need to inform the public about the importance of oral health in relation to dental health. The ODRT wants to develop pilot research projects that further raises awareness that systemic diseases present themselves in the oral cavities.’

Prof Nairn said oral diseases were among the most common to affect human beings. It was no coincidence that Chinese Medicine could assess the condition of the body by just looking at the colour and texture of the tongue.

Professor Iain Chapple, from Birmingham University Dental School, was chairman for the day and introduced the first speaker, Professor Michael Lewis, from Cardiff University and vice-president of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons at Glasgow, who spoke about the mouth as a window on the body.

He was followed by Professor Rhys Williams, from Swansea Medical School, who reported on the increasing numbers of people of all ages around the world who are contracting Diabetes Mellitus. Dr Philip Preshaw, from the School of Dental Surgery in Newcastle, drew on the causal link between Periodontitis and Diabetes, while Dr Christine Birchie from the University of Alabama in Birmingham USA, explained the scientific link-up for the mechanistic links between the two conditions. Three more distinguished speakers followed: Professor Andrew Lamb, BDA director for Scotland. The results of this survey highlight ongoing concerns about the future of dentistry in Scotland. It is clear that the Scottish Government still has a number of issues to address if access to NHS dentistry for patients across Scotland is to be improved. It is only through constructive dialogue between the profession and the Scottish Government that these matters can be addressed. The Minister for Public Health has demonstrated a willingness to discuss these issues with representatives of the BDA’s Scottish dental practice committee. This must continue.’

The survey also investigated other issues facing dentistry in Scotland. For example, despite dentists investing heavily in private practice facilities in recent years, 24 per cent of respondents said their practices were not allowed to comply with the decontamination guidelines currently being consulted on by the Scottish Government, which raises the spectre of possible forced practice closures.

The potential impact of practitioners’ retirement, with regard to the accessibility of patients to NHS care, was also highlighted by the survey. It revealed that practitioners aged 50 and over has larger NHS patient lists than their younger colleagues.

New managers for IDH

Matt Jackson has also been recruited to the new role of director of private and specialist practices, which would be achieved as an independent outfit.

Integrated Dental Holdings (IDH) has appointed two new managers to its management team. The company has recruited Chris Barrow as director of private practice and Matt Jackson as director of specialist practice development from October 1. Mr Barrow has more than 12 years experience of implementing high quality and innovative systems and standards in U.K. practice.

Mr Barrow said: ‘The results highlight the concern of the opinion that the dental action plan has actually made things worse, just under half of those surveyed (46 per cent) said they did not think the scheme had made either a positive or negative impact.

Andrew Lamb, BDA director for Scotland, said: ‘The ODRT has appointed two new directors, just under half of those surveyed (46 per cent) said they did not think the scheme had made either a positive or negative impact.

Andrew Lamb, BDA director for Scotland, said: ‘The ODRT has appointed two new directors, just under half of those surveyed (46 per cent) said they did not think the scheme had made either a positive or negative impact.

Andrew Lamb, BDA director for Scotland, said: ‘The ODRT has appointed two new directors, just under half of those surveyed (46 per cent) said they did not think the scheme had made either a positive or negative impact.

Andrew Lamb, BDA director for Scotland, said: ‘The ODRT has appointed two new directors, just under half of those surveyed (46 per cent) said they did not think the scheme had made either a positive or negative impact.

Andrew Lamb, BDA director for Scotland, said: ‘The ODRT has appointed two new directors, just under half of those surveyed (46 per cent) said they did not think the scheme had made either a positive or negative impact.

Andrew Lamb, BDA director for Scotland, said: ‘The ODRT has appointed two new directors, just under half of those surveyed (46 per cent) said they did not think the scheme had made either a positive or negative impact.

Andrew Lamb, BDA director for Scotland, said: ‘The ODRT has appointed two new directors, just under half of those surveyed (46 per cent) said they did not think the scheme had made either a positive or negative impact.

Andrew Lamb, BDA director for Scotland, said: ‘The ODRT has appointed two new directors, just under half of those surveyed (46 per cent) said they did not think the scheme had made either a positive or negative impact.

Andrew Lamb, BDA director for Scotland, said: ‘The ODRT has appointed two new directors, just under half of those surveyed (46 per cent) said they did not think the scheme had made either a positive or negative impact.

Andrew Lamb, BDA director for Scotland, said: ‘The ODRT has appointed two new directors, just under half of those surveyed (46 per cent) said they did not think the scheme had made either a positive or negative impact.

Andrew Lamb, BDA director for Scotland, said: ‘The ODRT has appointed two new directors, just under half of those surveyed (46 per cent) said they did not think the scheme had made either a positive or negative impact.