GDPUK round-up

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

Undoubtedly, it's got to be said that the most recent hot topic on GDPUK has been the discussion surrounding the so-called “Warburton” contract. Recriminations continue to appear, followed by John Milne’s letter stating that a consequence of termination of this new contract, spurned by the BDA and the corporates, is the transfer of ownership of the practice [but not the property] to the PCT commissioning the service in the first place.

Rumours now abound that the DH are trying all sorts of tactics to make this contract stick. Hopefully these will be exposed, and any fall out will blame only the DH. Apparently Professor Steele has been quoted as saying these contracts are not pilots at all, full stop.

Some clinical topics have arisen lately:

• How long do colleagues wait after completing root treatment before crowning? Some advocate as soon as possible, some cautiously wait for six months. A considered view seems to be around three months.

• Chat about what materials are best for the repair of abfraction cavities led to a discussion of how they form and theories about their formation.

• Front surface mirrors, their cost and benefits.

• Peer advice on the best set up of camera and lens for high quality dental macro pictures. Views did converge, and colleagues illustrated their comments with their own results.

Dentists are still up in arms about HTM 01-05. Words cannot express the deep feelings of anger felt in the profession over what seems to all to be an unscientific, unproven document, which will be forced on the profession at massive cost, with no proven benefits to patients. Apparently cases of vCJD in humans in the UK have fallen again to zero, there is no proof priests can be transmitted on dental instruments, and still no proof priests can be removed from dental instruments. A colleague from abroad asked about coming to the UK and practising here. This brought forth a flurry of disdain for the UDA system, and the princely sum of zero that NHS dentists earn for the complex skill of providing endodontic treatment. There were also warnings of future unemployment of dentists when the flood of new graduates emerges from the dental schools. Plus, to completely put the poor guy off, he was told that this summer, in Britain, it rained every day of June, July and August.

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About the author

Tony Jacobs, 52, is a GDP in the suburbs of Manchester, in practice with partner Steve Lazarus at 406 Dental (www.406dental.com). He has had roles in his LDC, local BDA and with the annual conference of LDCs, and is a local dental adviser for Dental Protection. Nowadays, he concentrates on GDPUK, the web group for UK dentists to discuss their profession online, www.gdpuk.com. Tony founded this group in 1997 which now has around 7,000 unique visitors per month, who make 33,000 visits and generate more than a million pages on the site per month. Tony is sure GDPUK.com is the liveliest and most topical UK dental website.

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