Anger over 2011 ARF increase

Increase in Fitness to Practise cases blamed for 51 per cent rise in dentists’ retention fee; DCPs hit by 25 per cent rise

The decision by General Dental Council (GDC) to increase the annual retention fee (ARF) paid by registrants has sparked outrage throughout the dental profession.

The ARF has been raised due to a number of challenges; a 40 per cent rise in fitness to practise cases, an increase in hearings and a cost of more than £8m on legal fees, not forgetting the plans for a Government-led revalidation, are the main reasons behind the increase.

The ARF for dentists has been increased by 31 per cent and now stands at £576 (due by 31 December 2010); there has also been a 25 per cent ARF increase for DCPs, which now stands at £120 (due by 51 July 2011) and the Specialist Lists fee will now be £72.

GDC Chair Alison Lockyer said: “We have looked very carefully at what it costs us to regulate dentistry.

“We check the quality of education so that new registrants are fit to practise. We make sure only appropriately qualified dental professionals join our registers.

“As a dentist, I recognise that there are dental professionals who will be unhappy with this decision about the ARF.” She added.

GDC Warning to Manufacturers

The FDA (Food and Drug Administration) have warned mouthwash companies that have been developed, and successfully tested in the laboratory for the first time by researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The strategy represents a potential major advance in the battle against gum disease, a serious infection that eventually leads to loss of bone and even teeth.

Researchers at University of Illinois at Chicago. The strategy represents a potential major advance in the battle against gum disease, a serious infection that eventually leads to loss of bone and even teeth. The laser technology could help dentists and the dental phobia by detecting disease, without exposing patients to X-rays. The laser has been hitting the news lately, the Raman spectrosopy, the laser has the ability to see beneath the skin and detect disease, without exposing patients to X-rays.

The FDA is stressing that companies have been told to take “appropriate action” within 15 days. If they don’t, they may face civil or criminal penalties, as well as having their product seized.

FDA Warning to Manufacturers

The FDA (Food and Drug Administration) has warned mouthwash companies Johnson & Johnson, CVS Corporation and Walgreen Company to immediately stop making claims that their products may help protect against cavities. The FDA is stressing that consumers of mouthwash products by these companies must be aware that the products may help protect against cavities, but there is no evidence demonstrating protection from gum disease.

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