**Cash boost**

An extra 36,500 people will be able to register with an NHS dentist in Leeds over the next three years after a £2m cash boost. The investment plans were agreed by Leeds Primary Care Trust (PCT) to improve access to dental services across the city in areas including Hyde Park, Pudsey, Horsforth, Harwewood, Wetherby and Ackworth. The PCT said funds were an interim measure until longer-term plans emerged.

**Fool’s gold**

People brought their dentures to a Nottingham antique dealer after reading an advert wanting to purchase false teeth. Back in the day, false teeth wanted by dealers, M. Kemp, were crowns and palates, which in former days were completely made from gold. A far cry from modern dentures, a whole palate could be worth hundreds of pounds.

Nowadays, prices offered vary from £15 to £50 per gram of nine carat gold.

**UDA increase**

The Department of Health has released data under its Dental Reform Monitoring programme, which shows the number of Units of Dental Activity (UDAs) commissioned for 2008-09.

The key findings, from the 152 PCTs and Care Trusts, were that 81 million UDAs were commissioned for 2008-09, as on June 30 this year. This shows an increase of 1.4 million (1.7 per cent) on UDAs commissioned for 2007-08.

**Company pull-out**

Dental company, Primecare, is leaving an NHS contract covering thousands of North Yorkshire residents after only one year. The contract in Leyburn, Masham, Wensleydale, Harrogate, and Bedale, terminates on October 31.

Councillor John Blackie, North Yorkshire health scrutiny committee chairman, said the firm told him the deal signed with North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust (PCT) was ‘fawed’ due to huge backlog.

He explained: ‘Primecare set up in areas without NHS dentists, so there was a large backlog of dental work and the way the contract rewards dentists meant they were unable to pay for it.’

He called on the PCT to find an alternative provider before new dentists take over in April.

**Financial re-think**

The DH has launched a proposal for maternity payments as an out in its draft GDS statement of dentists’ financial entitlements from April 2009.

**I spy…**

Is your practice looking a bit flat? Kathy Adams lists the reasons why a feature wall could be the answer – but there’s no room for disorganisation!

**Wasted effort?**

Nobody wants to deal with an emergency but you can’t afford to take the risk. Sharon Holmes explains why you have to use your time wisely.

**The government rebuffs HSC report**

Dental practitioners have condemned the government’s response to the Health Select Committee report on NHS dental reforms for being ‘in total denial’ and ‘failing to accept any criticism’.

Derek Watson, chief executive of the Dental Practitioners’ Association called the response from the Department of Health ‘fairly predictable’ and said: ‘The Health Select Committee has done all of this work and it seems to have been ignored’.

In its interim response to the report on dental services in July by the Health Select Committee, the government said that the ‘new dental contractual arrangements provide a better basis for Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to commission services, as the new system equips them with greater powers and flexibility to meet the needs of local people’.

It did accept the ‘Committee’s view that progress on improving access has been disappointing to date’ and pledged to ‘work with the Committee in its re-

**The government rebuffs HSC report**

Frequent claims

Did you know that crowns and bridgework account for a huge amount of cases involving claims against dentists? Dental Protection reveals all.

**Switch to sterile**

Pre-sterilised at no extra cost

**Clinical Case Studies**

Kathy Adams lists the reasons why a feature wall could be the answer – but there’s no room for disorganisation!