BDHF backs sugary drinks ban

The British Dental Health Foundation is urging NHS hospitals to ban sugary drinks from their vending machines.

Schools are expected to fill their vending machines with water, fruit juices and healthy snacks. Now the BDHF is calling on hospitals and GP surgeries to do the same.

NHS Tayside in Scotland is one trust which has been quick to take action by banning sugary drinks in vending machines at some of its hospitals.

The BDHF’s chief executive Nigel Carter said: ‘The foundation not only backs the NHS Tayside decision, but calls for a L-k-side ban on sugar drinks and snacks in hospitals, surgeries and health centres. Sugary products taken between meals are the main cause of tooth decay, which can lead to fillings and extractions.’

He added that banning unhealthy food and drink was important in protecting people against a range of other health conditions, such as heart disease and diabetes. The Scottish Government has backed NHS Tayside’s move and is calling on other trusts to follow suit, while the Department of Health said it wanted to see a similar approach in England.

A Department of Health spokesman said: ‘We have stated in the new obesity strategy that we expect the public sector to lead by example. The NHS is responsible for promoting and procuring healthy and nutritious food for staff, patients and visitors.’

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, which produces guidance for the health service in England and Wales, has also recommended the promotion of healthier food in surgeries and hospitals.

Smile-on and Dentply launch new webinars

Smile-on and Dentply are offering dental professionals a chance to take part in a new series of Dental Webinars.

For more information, visit www.dentalwebinars.co.uk

Further guidance for Botox

The General Dental Council is to issue further guidance this year to dental professionals carrying out nonsurgical cosmetic procedures such as Botox.

Duncan Rudkin, chief executive and registrar of the General Dental Council (GDC) said: ‘It was clear from feedback we received that there were some concerns about how registrants would implement the initial guidance practically.

In light of that, the Council has decided to further develop the guidance into something more usable for registrants and stakeholders.’

He added: ‘Careful thought also needs to be given to maintaining professional standards in relation to advertising these services, and to the need to be indemnified.’

The guidance on non-surgical cosmetic procedures was the result of the GDC’s public consultation on the scope of practice of the dental team earlier this year.

The consultation asked for views on what different groups of professionals could do as part of their work and what would be valid additions to conventional dentistry.

Dr Vinod Joshi is to launch hygiene talk

The founder of the Mouth Cancer Foundation is giving a talk on how to improve oral hygiene amongst patients with oral cancer.

The lecture by Dr Vinod Joshi is to mark Oral Cancer Awareness Month this November.

Dr Joshi’s lecture at the British Association of Dental Nurses’ Annual Conference on 1 November is supported by Philips Oral Healthcare.

Additional information on oral cancer and mouth cancer can be found on the Mouth Cancer Foundation’s website (www.mouthcancer.org).