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 from 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 LK-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 Dentsply launch new webinars

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

During the Webinars, dentists will be able to ask questions just as they would in a normal lecture.

They can also visit the website and watch the Webinar again, to cover points they might have missed.

Dr Julian Webber’s two-part series takes place on the 4 and 10 December and looks at endodontics and includes re-treatment.

Dr Webber was the first UK dentist to receive an MBE in endodontics. He has held teaching positions at Guys Hospital and is a former president of the British Endodontic Society.

New list in special care dentistry opens

The General Dental Council has opened its new Specialist List in special care dentistry.

The purpose of them is to reassure the public that those using the title ‘Specialist’ have demonstrated they have met standards approved by the GDC for entry to the lists.

The BDHF is calling for a ban on sugary drinks and snacks

Don’t miss the new series of dental webinars

Further guidance for Botox

The General Dental Council is to issue further guidance this year to dental professionals carrying out non-surgical 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.

A key to the early detection and prevention of mouth cancer is identifying patients who are most at risk, factoring in age, gender, racial group, smoking and alcohol use, diet and even oral cleanliness.

Only 1.7 per cent of all cancers diagnosed each year in the UK are related to the mouth. These cancers have a higher ratio of deaths than cases of breast or cervical cancers or skin melanoma.