BACD: research foreign dentists

People thinking of travelling overseas for dental treatment are being urged to shop around in Britain before going abroad. The British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (BACD) has warned potential patients that they need to carefully research the dentist who may be carrying out the work.

This is because they will be away for a limited amount of time and as such any procedures may be done ‘a bit more quickly’ than they would be in the UK, said the BACD.

Tif Qureshi, board member of the BACD recommends that people check out the foreign dentist’s portfolio.

The medical tourism industry is doing so well at the moment that London has just hosted the Health Tourism Show 2008, a new event covering practically every aspect of medical, dental, cosmetic and health treatment abroad.

The event which claims to be the first of its kind in the world, showcased clinics from about 20 countries, offering everything from cardiology to breast enlargement and dental work.

Organisers of the show, held at London’s Kensington Olympia, claim the credit crunch is making people more reluctant to shell out for expensive treatment in the UK and more adventurous about seeking a cheaper option abroad.

Pay rises

NHS Employers have called for pay rises for dentists in 2009/10 to be limited to two per cent. It argues that a balance has to be struck between fairness to staff and affordability.

In evidence submitted to the Doctors’ and Dentists’ Review Body, NHS Employers said it recognised that ‘inflationary pressures and efficiency expectations are putting pressure on services and any unfunded cost pressures from pay could threaten patient care’.

Employees within the NHS believe an award of two per cent would be affordable for dentists who are employed by the NHS, providing there is a corresponding uplift in the funding allocation for 2008/09. NHS Employers also argues that there should be no change to the General Dental Services (GDS) contract, in the light of increases in the 2008/09 award (recommended 5.4 per cent) against a backdrop of decreasing expenses for dental practices.

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Ex-dental chief tells lies

The former chairman of the British Dental Association (BDA) has been struck off by the General Dental Council for fraudulently claiming £51,000 in expenses from the BDA.

Trevor Mann, of Sutton in Surrey, claimed expenses for meetings at the BDA from October 2005 to July last year.

He said that he worked at a surgery in Blyfleet, Surrey, but an investigation found there was no trace of the practice.

The professional conduct committee report said: ‘Mr Mann quite clearly lied to Mr Ward about the scope and status of his practice’.

It added: ‘From 6 October 2005 to 27 July 2007, Mr Mann inappropriately and dishonestly claimed from the BDA sessional allowances stating that he had read the BDA expenses policy and was entitled to claim sessions for Monday to Friday. This too was misleading and dishonest.

Mr Mann's dishonesty was compounded by the fact that the claims were made over a sustained period of time and were not isolated incidents.’

The report concluded: The Committee hereby directs the Registrar to erase the name of Trevor Irvin John Mann from the Dentist Register’.

A spokesman for the BDA said: ‘The British Dental Association notes the conclusion of the case it referred to the General Dental Council. All of the money inappropriately claimed from the BDA has been repaid. The BDA now considers that the case is closed.’

Mr Mann did not attend the hearing at the GDC.