HTM 01-05 battle continues after BDA claims

British Dental Association calls for evidence to be examined by NICE

The British Dental Association (BDA) has made the bizarre claim that the Department of Health’s (DH) chief dental officer has refused to publish documentation on contamination he has already committed in a letter to the British Dental Journal - to publishing if required.

In a letter to the DH, the BDA has renewed its 2007 request for a full review of the evidence-base for the HTM 01-05 guidance document on decontamination in dental surgeries.

The BDA claims that three areas of the guidance have been amended before printing the document, which includes permission to use potable water for the rinse stage of decontamination.

The DH has a Clean, Safe Care Strategy, resulting in clean wards best practice as defined in the document. However the aim is to move towards best practice as defined in the new document. Over the last five years, the DH has introduced a Clean, Safe Care Strategy, resulting in cleaner hospitals and significant reductions in MRSA and C. difficile infections.

Incorporation

James Shedlow discusses the pros and cons of incorporating your practice

Lab Tribune

CAD/CAM technology: A laboratory and a clinical perspective of the advantages of CAD/CAM in treatment

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Dental Tribune

The World’s Dental Newspaper • United Kingdom Edition

Published in London

November 30 - December 6, 2009

Vol. 5 No. 29

News in Brief

World Diabetic Day: New guidelines for diabetes highlight importance of good periodontal health

View of the mouth: Dental Tribune speaks to Prof Stephen Porter about the efficacy of dielectrophoresis

CAD/CAM technology: A laboratory and a clinical perspective of the advantages of CAD/CAM in treatment

Incorporation: James Shedlow discusses the pros and cons of incorporating your practice

To have & to hold

True love may be the key to a long and happy marriage – but being a dentist helps, too, according to new research. A paper that correlates occupations with divorce and separation rates, published this week in the Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology, reveals that dancers and choreographers, bartenders, massages therapists and telephone operators are most likely to split up. Those looking for a life of fidelity and loyalty, however, should marry agricultural engineers, optometrists, dentists, members of the clergy and podiatrists.

Dr Michael Aamodt, an industrial and organisational psychologist and professor of Industrial and Organisational Psychology at Radford University in Virginia, has invented a formula to work out the likelihood of success for a marriage, based on the percentage of people in 449 occupations who have been in a marriage relationship, but were no longer with their spouses. Using census information, Aamodt’s formula produces a score for each occupation according to their likelihood of achieving a successful marriage.

His study found that chefs and mathematicians shared a 20 per cent chance of getting divorced or separated. Despite their long hours, or perhaps because of them, chief executives had only a 9.81 per cent chance of experiencing marriage breakdown, slightly above pharmacists, dentists and farmers.

New Modules Launched

After the success of Communication in Dentistry: Stories from the Practice, Smile-on in association with Dental Protection Ltd (DPL) have launched the next three modules of this flexible approach to dental training. Modules four to six of Communication in Dentistry consist of: Module four: Complaint handling and dealing with difficult patients; Module five: Consent and communicating choices; Module six: Recording communications. The cutting edge technology and informative content offers users a flexible approach to promoting effective and reliable working systems to help practices enjoy greater success and safeguard themselves from legal action. Smile-on is proud to support all dental professionals by offering flexible education and accessible learning to help build fulfilling and successful dental careers.

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November 30-December 6, 2009

Vol. 5 No. 29

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BDA executive board chairman, Dr Susie Sanderson, said: “It is telling that changes to the content of HTM 01-05 have had to be made already. The changes expose the uncertain evidence base on which the document is founded and will be a cause of great concern to dentists. These doubts can only be exacerbated by the failure of the DH to publish its evidence base for the document.

“The establishment of evidence base the BDA believes the guidance must be looked at in detail by NICE.”

Dr Barry Cockcroft, chief dental officer for England, said: “Improving patient safety is a priority for the DH and we make no apology for updating our guidance to make sure dentists have the most up-to-date scientific advice available. The document must reflect the latest knowledge and needs to be up-to-date. We will therefore be constantly refreshing it.

“As the BDA is aware, we have already committed to publishing the list of references for all our latest evidence at the earliest opportunity.”

He stressed it was a living document, which was updated to reflect changing evidence.

He added: “The knowledge base has moved on in the first two areas mentioned by the BDA.

“Regarding point three, this is not new guidance, it has just been re-positioned within the document.

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