GDC bans ‘unqualified’ implants

The General Dental Council (GDC) is telling all dentists they must only undertake procedures they are properly trained in, after a number of dentists were found carrying out dental implant procedures without proper training.

Dentists currently doing implant dentistry, and those considering branching into that area, are being told by the General Dental Council (GDC) to read guidelines published by the Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK), ‘Training Standards in Implant Dentistry’.

These guidelines stipulate the minimum training the GDC would expect dentists to have successfully completed before undertaking implants.

NHS dentistry fails pensioners

Elderly people are finding it hard to see a dentist because of the poor access to dentistry services, according to Help the Aged.

In the past, many older people had dentures but this is happening less now because of the improvements in dental care since the creation of the NHS.

Charlotte Potter, a senior health policy officer at Help the Aged, said: ‘It’s a particularly acute problem for people in care homes or for those that are housebound.

She added: ‘Services are just not flexible enough and it means that elderly people often go without treatment.’

The problem has been exacerbated with more and more elderly people keeping their own teeth for longer.

More than a third of over 75s fail to have regular check-ups - the highest for any age group, according to Help the Aged.

It would like to see mobile dental units visiting care homes to give older people more of an opportunity to see a dentist.

Nigel Carter, chief executive of British Dental Health Foundation, said that teeth decay quicker, as people get older as they are not producing so much saliva.

A Department of Health spokesman said guidance had already been issued to NHS managers about the importance of providing dental services for the elderly.

He said: ‘We recognise how important it is to have accessible NHS dentistry services for everyone.’