Communication combats stress

Good communication between the patients and the dental team leads to reduced stress and fewer complaints, according to Smile-on which has just launched its communication in dentistry programme.

Smile-on, which provides educational resources for the dental industry, has joined forces with Dental Protection Limited (DPL) to run the three-module programme Communication in Dentistry: Stories from the Practice.

A spokeswoman for Smile-on said: ‘With this groundbreaking programme, the entire dental team can enjoy the benefits of a happy working environment by implementing practical communication techniques.

Better lines of communication with patients and between members of the dental team leads to reduced stress and fewer complaints. This means less legal claims and greater financial success for your business.’

Other educational courses for dental professionals on offer from Smile-on include D’START, a method to deliver crucial knowledge to dental nurses, a Clinical Photography Course and Clinical Governance Programme.

It also recently announced its new series of Webinars with Dr Julian Webber, former British Endodontic Society president, Christine Plesance, former British Dental Hygienists’ Association president (now the British Society of Dental Hygiene & Therapy) and Patrick Holmes, a leading lecturer in Contemporary Aesthetic Dentistry.

For more information on any of these courses please call 020 7400 8989 or email info@smile-on.com.

Vending machine clearout

Fizzy drinks, sweets, chocolates and crisps have been banned from vending machines in hospitals in South Wales from the beginning of November. The new guide lines issued by the Welsh Assembly Government ban junk food from being sold in the machines.

Health Minister Edwina Hart announced the ban on junk food in hospital vending machines in April - and detail of what can be sold have now been sent to NHS trusts.

The ban includes all chocolates and chocolate biscuits, sweets, including mints, crisps, but baked snack products will be allowed. All fizzy drinks and those with added sugar are banned. However yoghurt, milk drinks and smoothies are allowed if they meet strict nutritional rules.

The British Dental Health Foundation said the move would help to prevent tooth decay. Dr Nigel Carter, chief executive of the Dental Health Foundation, said: ‘Sugar products taken be tween meals are the main cause of tooth decay, which can lead to fillings and extractions. Your teeth are under acid attack and risk of decay for up to an hour each time you eat sugary products.

‘Poor diet has also been linked with gum disease, which not only threatens tooth loss, but overall health. Research is proving time and time again that gum disease is linked to diabetes, heart disease, strokes and premature and low birth-weight babies.’

As part of the changes, the vending machines will not be allowed to promote foods or drinks high in fat, sugar or salt brands associated with such products. Tica Donnelly, director of the Royal College of Nursing in Wales, said: ‘We are pleased that unhealthy snacks will be removed from vending machines in hospitals.‘

‘People who use vending ma chines for convenience do not always have the ability to choose healthy options so this new guidance will ensure that better choices are available.’

Thieving dentist is up for fraud

A dentist in Carmarthen-shire has been struck off after fraudulently claim ing nearly £58,000 from the Dental Practice Board for National Health Treatment that he had not given.

Newton Daniel Johnson, who is currently serving 24 months in prison for the thefts which took place over a period of five years, has had his name erased from the Dentists Register by the General Dental Council (GDC).

‘He dishonestly claimed and received a large sum of money from the Dental Practice Board, for National Health Service Treatment, which he had not provided,’ according to the report by the GDC’s Professional Conduct Committee.

The report said ‘in the circumstances the Committee is satisfied that Mr Johnson’s fitness to practice is impaired’.

Mr Johnson was convicted of 20 counts of theft on 31 March 2006 at the Crown Court in Swansea. The thefts took place between 1999 and 2004.

The Committee considered that this was a case of very serious dishonesty and breach of trust in Mr Johnson’s capacity as a dentist.

The report added that ‘the Committee is concerned that, to date, Mr Johnson has shown little or no insight or remorse into his conduct and that he took two years to acknowledge his guilt.’

The Committee said it did consider written testimonials produced by Mr Johnson’s professional colleagues and patients and noted there were no criticisms of his clinical abilities.

Halitosis reaches 2.5m

One in five Britons think their partner has bad breath and nearly half the population think that a friend or colleague has it, according to a study by the British Dental Health Foundation.

Bad breath affects over 2.5m people in the UK. All of us get it from time-to-time but for others it can be a big problem.

It’s important that dental professionals give the right advice to patients in order to combat the problem.

A spokesman for the British Dental Health Foundation said: ‘It’s a very common problem and there are many different causes. Persistent bad breath is usually caused by the smelly gases released by the bacteria that coat your teeth and gums. Bits of food that get caught between the teeth and on the tongue will rot and can sometimes cause an unpleasant smell. So correct and regular brushing is very important to keep your breath smelling fresh.’

He added: ‘However, strong foods like garlic, coffee and onions can add to the problem. The bacteria on our teeth and gums (plaque) also cause gum disease and dental decay. One of the warning signs of gum disease is that you always have bad breath or a bad taste in your mouth.

‘If your dentist or hygienist is able to clean all those areas that are difficult to reach. They will also be able to show you the best way to clean your teeth and gums, and show you any areas you may be missing, including your tongue,’ advised the BDHF spokesman.

© 2008, Dental Tribune UK Ltd. All rights reserved.
Dental Tribune UK Ltd makes every effort to report clinical information and manufacturer’s product news accurately, but cannot assume responsibility for the validity of products claims or for typographical errors. The publishers also do not assume responsibility for product names or claims, or statements made by advertisers. Opinions expressed by authors are their own and may not reflect those of Dental Tribune International.