GDPUK round-up

Discussions on the financial crisis hit GDPUK this week, as well as the legalities surrounding tooth whitening techniques used in a beauty salon. Tony Jacobs reveals the latest topics

A t the end of a busy weekend, GDPUK members began to discuss issue number concerning the theoretical risk of a bird flu pandemic. Dentists will be drafted in to help medical teams, and UDA requirements will be dropped which will hopefully be the least of the country’s worries.

The developing financial crisis is seeing its way into the forums of GDPUK following the breakdown of the banks in Iceland. Correspondents discussed the effect on the dental corporate chain ADP, but the news was unclear. No doubt when this piece is published, the situation regarding Icelandic assets in the UK will be clarified. Perhaps the ADP group will be sold as a going concern?

The imminent publication of the new cross-infection guidance by the Department of Health (DH) has led to pre-emptive discussions and no doubt when published, this issue will provide a great deal of food for thought for any dental bodies.

But this wasn’t all being aired on the forum. Many other issues were discussed include:

• Clinical waste contractors
• A beauty salon carrying out bleaching – the client takes their own impressions, and also has to hold the bleaching light. Is this legal?
• A photograph of a fractured maxillary tuberosity
• The position with regard to Global Crossing providing communications services to the BDA
• Stainless-steel worktops – shiny or textured for decontamination rooms?
• Importantly, the response of the DH to the Health Select Committee report.

Dental Showcase at Excel was given some thought. Many list members attended the event, either to work, or simply to visit. Although there were more than 500 stands, and colleagues spent money, the general feedback this year was not of great innovation or groundbreaking new must-have products. The GDPUK one-to-one feedback also suggested that many travelled far and wide to get to the conference.

The issue of outbreaks of ANUG entered the forum at some stage. One list member said that he receives clusters of cases, even though the patients do not seem to have links. Another feels the outbreaks are more common in autumn and spring. Others observed the link between young people with full-time jobs, and busy sleep-deprived weekends. Smoking was not always a common factor, even though the dentists discussing this thought it would be.

A few tongue-in-cheek topics were aired, with one colleague claiming he had toothache following a small composite repair, and asked for root treatment from another colleague. Many jumped in to offer extraction of the L86 and some even offered to use local.

Dr Anthony V Jacobs started the GDPUK emailing list in 1997, and the group membership is now just under 2,000. The list is read in all corners of the UK dental profession as well as by laboratories, and the trade and dental industry. Qualifying in London in 1979, Dr Jacobs is now in partnership with Dr Stephen Lazarus, practicing at 806 Dental in Manchester. He enjoys his profession, and takes pride in providing both simple and complex gentle dentistry, as well as caring for families in a relaxed atmosphere. Dr Jacobs has a long-term commitment to continuing professional development, both for himself, and for the profession in general through his mailing list. He has been a member of the British Dental Association (BDA) since 1975, and is presently chairman of the Bury and Bexchade Oral Health Advisory Group, as well as vice-chair of the Bury and Bexchade Local Dental Committee (LDC). Dr Jacobs also sits on the committee and helps to organise the annual conference of Local Dental Committees.

UCL POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN DENTAL SEDATION AND PAIN MANAGEMENT (CONSCIOUS SEDATION)

The course is delivered over six months and will include four days of lectures and problem-based learning (6, 7, 9 and 10 May 2009) followed by practical training over the following six months in which practitioners administer conscious sedation to patients under the close supervision of an experienced sedationist. Course participants will be encouraged to return to their practices and administer sedation for their own patients, with ongoing advice from the course mentors as required.

Topics to be covered include:

• Medical conditions and sedation provision
• Patient assessment: including clinical examination
• Treatment planning
• Intravenous and oral sedation: standard techniques
• Inhalation sedation
• Prevention and management of sedation complications
• Pain management
• Practical aspects of setting up a sedation service
• Medico-legal aspects of sedation
• Introduction to paediatric sedation
• Behaviour management techniques
• Basic life support – resuscitation techniques and dealing with medical emergencies

The sedation course is directed by Professor James Roelofse, Professor of Anaesthesia, and co-ordinated by Dr Yusuf (Joe) Omar and Dr Andre du Plessis. Our speakers are all leaders in their fields with a wealth of practical experience in their subject.

The course will equip clinicians to provide sedation services in keeping with current best practice and in line with contemporary UK guidelines. This limited attendance course is offered in May of each year and is open to both dental and medical practitioners. Overseas applications are also welcome.

The course fees are £3,950 (subject to confirmation by UCL, fees committee), which includes all materials, lunch and refreshments but does not include travel to the sedation clinics for the clinical sessions.