I’ve never too long before a group of dentists start talking shop. As an NHS dentist, I’ve noticed that during the early stages of the implementation of the new contract, much of this shop talk has been about the system, rather than the work done within it. Some dentists appear to have been minimally affected, but others are struggling with providing vast quantities of work and are still not meeting their targets.

In May 2006 the BDA asked PCTs across England for factual information about their mixed PDS arrangements. The information concentrated on the amount of dental care commissioned by the PCT, contract values, numbers of contracts taken up and numbers of patients on waiting lists. For those PCTs responding, we can see that average UDA values vary staggeringly across the country, from £14/UDA in Durham and Chester-Le-Street to £56/UDA in Sheffield West.

Apart from the matter of fairness, this begs the question of whether the Government can be sure that they have all of their calculations right; and if they have not, will we see this spectrum narrowing across England after April 2006?

Many dentists have lost faith in the Government’s ability to fairly allocate funding across the UK and see this system as a massive oversimplification of what is actually needed to provide dental healthcare. Nothing epitomises the failures of the new contract more than the effect it has on those people who require dental healthcare the most. As I sift through the numerous reports on the state of NHS dentistry, we are constantly made aware that the working patterns of many have changed. When we look at the management of high need patients, we can see that what is being provided can vary considerably between dentists, practices and even postcode nationwide. As a result of the changes, community dentistry and secondary dental care have become swamped with an increase in referrals of patients needing complex treatment. The Health Select Committee has been concerned that this could have an adverse effect on those patients who have been traditionally treated in these settings.

Diminishing trust

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Testing the water

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In the third article in the series on the state-of-play in NHS dentistry under the new contract, Neel Kothari suggests that the Government needs to rethink its strategy when it comes to allocating funding for dental care. The information about nGDS/nPDS across England for factual information about their mixed PDS arrangements. The information concentrated on the amount of dental care commissioned by the PCT, contract values, numbers of contracts taken up and numbers of patients on waiting lists. For those PCTs responding, we can see that average UDA values vary staggeringly across the country, from £14/UDA in Durham and Chester-Le-Street to £56/UDA in Sheffield West.

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Outstanding ergonomics in its most attractive form

The KaVo treatment unit ESTETICA E80 with its innovative suspended chair concept can be optionally adapted to the every day needs of the dental practice. Both the dentist’s and assistant’s elements are provided with a configuration and an ergonomically perfect instrument layout ready for the future. The new AL 760 motor with optional endo-function, and the possibility of integrating the surgery motor SL 590, makes additional, expensive instruments superfluous. The integral communication system ERGOnom 4 connects the ESTETICA E80 to the practice system and delivers information directly to the treatment area. USB interfaces at both the dentist’s and the assistant’s elements enable USB compatible equipment to be connected to the unit at any time.

The ESTETICA E80 is equipped with automated hygiene functions for easy, time-saving hygiene procedures.

For information or to arrange a visit from a KaVo Equipment Specialist, regarding the full range of KaVo products and services including dental units, handpieces, imaging products, surgery planning, cabinetry and flexible finance please contact us on Freephone 0800 218020.

Dental Art

Presented for the first time at Dental Showcase and greatly received, these are proud to launch the new product line of Dental Art cabinetry. Intro-duced to complement all aspects of the A-dec range, this Italian designed product offers a contemporary and stylish ad- dition to the A-dec family of products. Since 1973, Dental Art have designed and manufacture-d cabinets and furniture for the dental industry. Now, in conjunction with A-dec, they offer a unique line of products to the UK market. Available in a se- lection of colours, finishes and specifications, A-dec are ex-plained to offer a further product dimension to the extensive line of established products.

Prices and designs are available from A-dec dealers and an example of the cabinetry available can be viewed at select-A-dec showrooms. Please contact Adec for more details on 02476 559081. 

The BOS reviews some annual highlights

On Reflection

2008 saw The British Ortho-dontic Society’s (BOS) Chairman Dr Iain Iathorn address a Parliamentary Health Select Committee at the Houses of Par-liament as it continued its strong political lobbying to peti-tion for a more sustainable, fair and consistent orthodontic pro- vision across the country.

The BOS Annual Conference took place between 14-16 Sep-tember 2008 and attracted a substantial number of members to Brighton.

Each year, an outstanding contributor to the world of orthodontics is invited to give the Northbrook Memorial Lecture at the Conference. This year was no exception when Dr Nigel Harradine, BOS’ Chairman Elect presented a perceptive address on ‘self-ligation: past, present and future’.

On the International front, the BOS will attend the 7th IOC International Conference. This year was staged by the World Federation of Orthodontists (WFO) and will be hosted by the Australian Society of Orthodontists.

Get a FREE trip to Copenhagen

With Heka Dental you’re in safe hands!

Heka Dental are inviting Dentists to visit Wonderful Copenhagen to see their fantatic dental and production fa-cilities, as well as their beauti-ful city. They will be arranging several trips a year, which will normally run from Thursday morning to Saturday after-noon. During which time their guests will have an opportunity to visit their factory as well as enjoy some of the delights of Wonderful Copenhagen. If Dentists order a Heka Dental package before or during the trip, their visit ( including flights, hotel, lunch and din-ners ) will be free. If they do not, they will only pay for the flight and hotel.

Incorporating the latest Treatment Centre Technology, Heka Dental’s UNIC is the ulti-mate embodiment of feedback from patients, dentists, dental technicians and service engi-neers.

Like all Heka Dental Treat-ment Centres, UNIC is electric-ally operated not hydraulically driven. This enables incorpora-tion of all the state-of-the-art features associated with top-of-the-range electrically operated units, features not necessarily possible with hydraulic units.

Heka Dental equipment is available in the UK from Dental Services Direct, tele-phone 01382 267 2778 or visit www.heka-dental.co.uk for fur-ther information.

100th Aseptico Unit

Velopex the UK Distributor for the Aseptico range of portable dentistry products have just installed the 100th item from the extensive range, a Transport II Mobile Surgery Unit.

Whether you have over patient, amphotexious rear delivery, mobile cart or cabinet mounted units. You still have choices of built in ultrasonic scalers, cur- lers and cameras. To finish the choices you have options of choice of lights from standard chair or ceiling mounted to lat-est LED.

Contact: Tel: 0141 269 5901 email info@dentalez.co.uk www.dentalez.co.uk

Secure Your Future with CEREC

CEREC is proven to increase profits plus it adds the ‘wow’ fac-tor to any practice. CEREC en-ables you to provide your pa-tients with same day crowns, bridges etc without the expense and time of waiting for the labo-ratory to construct the prothe-sis. The finished prosthesis is in-credibly aesthetic, exhibiting excellent strengths and the mar-gins are superb too. CEREC ac-curately captures the occlusal contacts saving you from mak-ing any further adjustments.

Using CEREC allows you to produce perfect chairside ce-ramic restorations in the same visit whilst saving you and your patient time, laboratory fees and ultimately making your business more profitable.

To find out how the Sirona team can directly support your practice and for a no ob-ligation demonstration of the CEREC SD system telephone 0845 071 5040 or email: info@sironidental.co.uk or visit www.sironacadcamreso-lutions.co.uk

Another exciting new chair for dental services direct

When the time comes to buy a new dental chair the variety can be daunting. You’ll need to consider things like; patient comfort, ease of use, the ability to incorporate other equipment such as monitors and hand-pieces and what type of upholstery you would prefer.

Dental Services Direct have a wide selection of chairs and de-livery packages from many ma-jor manufacturers and their ex-perience and understanding of the dental trade can help make your decision swift and painless. Their exclusive agreements with both Ancar and Heka, combined with packages from Anthos, Bel-mont, and DentalEZ mean there is some to suit every budget.

For further information on the TR Series and all other avail able chairs contact your local Dental Services Direct sales office: Scotland & the North 01245 600 550, South 0845 600 520, South West 0845 600 550.

Scaling Made Simple with the R&S Ultrasonic Scaler

Realistically priced is the R&S Ultrasonic Scaler, available exclu-sively from Dental Sky. This light, small and portable ultrasonic scaler is quickly, effectively and effi-ciently removes dental calculus and stains from the tooth surface.

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