 Fake dentist kisses patient  
A fake dentist from Florida has been arrested for kissing his female patient’s buttock. John Collazos had been practising dentistry without a licence, directing his services towards migrants. A woman complained to police about Collazos after attending an appointment with him for toothache. According to the patient, Collazos gave her an injection in her buttock to relieve the pain, and subsequently kissed the wound. Collazos has been charged with four counts of practising without a licence, another four for using equipment without a licence, and one count of battery.

Dallas star dies of mouth cancer  
TV star Larry Hagman, best known for his role as JR Ewing in the hit series Dallas, died of tongue cancer on Friday 25th November, having been diagnosed with the disease in October last year. Chief Executive of the British Dental Health Foundation, Dr Nigel Carter OBE, hopes this latest high-profile case will help to spread the message and raise awareness about mouth cancer. Dr Carter said, “Larry’s passing is a reminder of how deadly mouth cancer can be. Latest figures show more than 6,000 cases have been diagnosed in the UK. Without early detection, half of those will die.”

Oral HIV test  
According to Time magazine, OraQuick, the first in-home HIV test kit that received FDA approval for over-the-counter sale directly to U.S. consumers in July, is one of the best inventions of 2012. “With just a swab of saliva, OraQuick can identify the antibodies that signal HIV infection within 20 minutes. It's the first do-it-yourself test for HIV—the same one that health professionals use but without the trip to a doctor’s office or the need to wait days for results,” the magazine reported. Douglas Michaels, president and CEO of OraSure Technologies, manufacturer of the kit, “The OraQuick In-Home HIV Test is a breakthrough product in the fight against HIV and AIDS because it empowers more people to learn their HIV status in the comfort and privacy of their own homes,” he said.

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OFT campaign gives patients ‘Right to Smile’

Consumer and competition authority initiates drive to encourage patients to know their rights before visiting their dentist

The Office of Fair Trading has launched a new campaign to help patients understand more about their rights when visiting the dentist.

The ‘Right to Smile’ campaign has come off the back of the report from the OFT earlier in the year, where it was claimed that patients do not always have the information to allow them to make informed decisions about their choice of dentist and treatments.

As part of the campaign the OFT is advising NHS patients:  
• They are entitled to a wide range of treatment that is needed to get their mouth, teeth and gums as healthy and pain free as possible.  
• If the dentist discusses a particular type of treatment, patients shouldn’t be required to pay for it privately. Private options may be discussed, such as cosmetic alternatives or specialist treatments such as dental implants – which is up to the patient to decide if they want them.  
• Even if treatment involves a number of visits, patients will only pay one charge for each complete course of NHS treatment, unless there was an emergency visit to the dentist first.  
• Should NHS treatment fail within 12 months, the dentist should repair or redo most treatment free of charge, unless the patient was advised that treatment was unlikely to be a long-term solution. Advice for private patients includes:  
• Ask what guarantees the dentist provides. In addition to any rights patients may have under guarantee, they will also have rights under the Supply of Goods and Services Act 1982.

“The Right to Smile” campaign is supported by organisations such as the BDA, Oasis, HDH, Which?, NHS Choices, the Department of Health, the Welsh Government, the Scottish Government and Citizens Advice.

Judith Frame, OFT Head of Campaigns, said: “While the UK has one of the highest standards of oral health in the world, and satisfaction levels among patients are high, our report found that people are often confused about what they’re expected to pay, and don’t always have the information they need.

This campaign aims to help patients be clearer about what to expect, and more engaged when making decisions about their choice of dentist and treatments.”

A Which? spokesperson said: “We support the ‘Right to Smile’ campaign to help consumers understand their rights when visiting the dentist. It’s vital patients are given clear, timely and transparent information on the proposed treatment and the costs and how to complain if something goes wrong.”
**Check your faulty defibrillators warns MHRA**

The manufacturer, HeartSine Technologies Ltd has distributed 1587 samaritan® PAD 500/500P defibrillators made by HeartSine Technologies Ltd after two potential faults were found. The faults could lead to depleted batteries and hence the device being unavailable for use in the event of a person having a sudden cardiac arrest in a public place.

Some faulty samaritan® PAD 500/500P defibrillators turn on or off when not in use, draining the battery power. In addition, defibrillators with early versions of the battery management software may misinterpret a low battery voltage which could turn the defibrillator off.

The manufacturer, HeartSine Technologies Ltd, has issued a global correction notice for samaritan® PAD 500/500P defibrillators distributed from August 2004 to December 2010. Serial numbers for devices affected by these issues are below:

- 0400000501 to 070052917 inclusive
- 0800055000 to 1000007075 inclusive
- 1000200000 to 1000201518 inclusive

Mr Thorpe was informed by Bath Trading Standards that the tooth whitener he was selling was not compliant with the regulation. The manufacturer, Brighter Marketing Limited. After continued to trade. In 2009 he launched a prosecution. The jury found unanimously that Mr Thorpe was guilty of mis-selling consumers as to the legality of a tooth whitening product and 10 charges for breaches of the Cosmetic Product Regulations 2008 (CPRs) for misleading consumers as to the legality of a tooth whitening product; and 10 charges for breaches of the Cosmetic Product Regulations 2008 for supplying a tooth whitening product that contained or released excessive levels of hydrogen peroxide.

Mr Thorpe continued to sell the product as a sole trader. He used several websites to sell this product including www.smile-brighter.co.uk; www.brightersmile.co.uk; and www.smilebrighternow.com.

It is understood that Mr Thorpe first became involved in selling this product on return from the USA after making an acquaintance with a supplier. In 2007 Mr Thorpe was informed by Bath Trading Standards that the tooth whitener he was selling was not compliant with the regulations. Nevertheless, Mr Thorpe continued to trade. In 2009 he was contacted by Essex Trading Standards, and an investigation into his business was undertaken. Mr Thorpe accepted a caution in 2010, acknowledging that the tooth whitener was illegal. Still, Mr Thorpe failed to cease trading and Essex Trading Standards launched a prosecution.

The judge found unanimously that Mr Thorpe was guilty of mis-selling consumers as to the legality of the product, and also for not providing information on the website that is required by law. Mr Thorpe pleaded guilty to the breaches of the Cosmetic Products Regulations. These charges included the supply of a product containing excessive levels of Hydrogen Peroxide and for deficient labelling of the tooth whitener.
As you will have seen from the news on the front page (or did you turn straight to this to see what I had to say?) the Office of Fair Trading has backed up its report (first reported in DT Vol.6 No.15, June 4-10, 2012) with patient awareness campaign highlight patient’s rights to treatment at the dentist.

This is being complemented with videos and an information sheet, tailored to each country in the UK. To see the video, go to the OFT’s YouTube channel and take a look – probably worth it as you can bet your patients probably will.

Last week saw the ninth annual BACD conference in Manchester. It was an exceptional conference with some really world class names speaking at the event. I have to say my favourite (and I did go to more than one, I promise) was a lecture by Rafi Romano on Current Innovations in Aesthetic Orthodontics. I am hoping to get a clinical case study from him for an upcoming 2013 issue of Dental Tribune, watch this space!

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Effects of tooth whitening under inspection by EU

The Council of European Dentists (CED) is currently conducting a one-year survey on possible negative side-effects of tooth whitening and bleaching products. The committee has called upon dentists in the EU to report their own and their patients' observations.

The survey includes tooth whitening and bleaching products that are not freely available on the market to consumers, that is, those that contain between 0.1 and 6 per cent hydrogen peroxide. It runs until 31 October 2013. The initial results will be reported to the European Commission by the end of next year.

The research is being carried out in accordance with an agreement between the CED and the European Commission that was signed in March 2010 owing to the increasing availability of tooth whitening products on the EU market. The agreement was signed to ensure appropriate tooth whitening treatment through qualified dental professionals and to improve patient safety.

GDC sets out new guidance for employers

The guidance contains a number of key points, including what defines a student/trainee dental nurse or dental technician:

They are either:
1. Employed and enrolled or waiting to start on a recognised programme that will lead to GDC registration; or
2. Studying on a recognised programme that leads directly to GDC registration.

The full guidance document can be found on the GDC website: www.gdc-uk.org/dentalprofessionals/education/pages/dcpintraining.aspx

Polar bear enters dentist’s chair

A team of vets at a Scottish wildlife park have given a polar bear root canal treatment.

The vets were called in after the usually-playful Arktos was feeling subdued, leading staff at the park to discover a problem with his upper left canine tooth.

Arktos, who weighs 75 stones, was sedated and placed on an operating table made up of scaffolding poles and thick planks. His tooth had become damaged at the tip and rotted through, causing the polar bear to need root canal treatment.

After three hours, the treatment was successfully completed.

Douglas Richardson, animal collection manager at the park, said the vets and park staff were pleased with how the operation went.

He said: “Arktos really is a lucky bear and we were delighted to be able to save his tooth.

“In the wild the infection would have tracked through his system, causing him a great deal of pain and discomfort and, over the longer term, it could eventually kill him.”

Stevenson dentist struck off

A dentist based in Stevenage in Hertfordshire has been struck off by the General Dental Council (GDC) following a public hearing into allegations of dishonesty.

The allegations heard by the GDC's Professional Conduct Committee are in connection with incidents that occurred between January 2009 and October 2010 when Jonathan Anyetei (Registration No. 58109) was practising as sole principal at the Dental Surgery, 15 Town Square Chambers, Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG1 1BP.

The Committee said:

“Dishonesty is a serious matter in any person. In the case of a dentist, dishonesty is a betrayal of trust which sits at the heart of the dentist/patient relationship. The public and profession have the right to trust a dentist's integrity. The public also rightfully expect a dentist to maintain a clean and clear workplace and not in his patients' best interests.

The Committee noted the seriousness of the charges proved, and was in no doubt that this constituted misconduct.”

In the circumstances the Committee determined that the only appropriate and proportionate sanction to maintain the standards of the dental profession and public confidence in it, was that of erasure.

Mr Anyetei's registration was immediately suspended and unless he exercises his right of appeal, his name will be erased from the register.
UPCOMING WEBINARS:

12/12/12  19:30  ‘Demystifying clinical research papers’  Stephen Hancocks

13/12/12  19:30  ‘Modern Treatment Options for Periodontal Disease’  Ian Peace

19/12/12  18:00  ‘Medical Emergencies’  Joe Omar

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Parents responsible for dental fears

A new study conducted by scientists at the Rey Juan Carlos University of Madrid highlights the important role that parents play in the transmission of dentist fear in their family.

Previous studies had already identified the association between the fear levels of parents and their children, but they never explored the different roles that the father and the mother play in this phenomenon.

América Lara Sacido, one of the authors of the study explains that “along with the presence of emotional transmission of dentist fear amongst family members, we have identified the relevant role that fathers play in transmission of this phobia in comparison to the mother.”

Published in the Inter-national Journal of Pediatric Dentistry, the study analysed 185 children between seven and 12 years and their parents in the Autonomous Community of Madrid. The results were in line with previous studies which found that fear levels amongst fathers, mothers and children are interlinked.

The authors confirmed that the higher the level of dentist fear or anxiety in one family member, the higher the level in the rest of the family. The study also reveals that fathers play a key role in the transmission of dentist fear from mothers to their children as they act as a mediating variable.

“Although the results should be interpreted with due caution, children seem to mainly pay attention to the emotional reactions of the fathers when deciding if situations at the dentist are potentially stressful,” states Lara Sacido.

Consequently, transmission of fear from the mother to the child, whether it be an increase or reduction of anxiety, could be influenced by the reactions that the father displays in the dentist.

Amongst the possible implications of these results, the authors outline the two most salient: the need to involve mothers and especially fathers in dentist fear prevention campaigns; and to make fathers to attend the dentist and display no signs of fear or anxiety.

With regard to assistance in the dental clinic, the work with parents is key. They should appear relaxed as a way of directly ensuring that the child is also relaxed too,” notes the author.

Tooth whitening company prosecuted

The General Dental Council (GDC) has prosecuted illegal teeth whitening company Pearl Teeth Whitening Limited.

The Company, trading as Pearl National, was charged under section 45 of the Den-tists’ Act 1984, which states: “A body corporate commits an offence if it carries on the business of dentistry at a time when a majority of its direc-tors are not persons who are either registered dentists or registered dental care profession-als.”

A representative of Pearl National of Guilt at Doncaster Magistrates’ Court on Friday 23rd November.

During sentencing, District Judge Bennett said: “It is clear from their website that Pearl National operates from a large number of locations and from the facts of the case presented to me, that they employed unqualified people to provide teeth whitening to their customers.”

He added that it occurred to him that the company “must have received a lot of money and had never filed accounts at Companies House.”

The court has fined the firm £5,500 and ordered them to pay £4,000 towards the GDC costs.
Is your dental partnership legal?

N ASDAL are advising all dentists to think twice before going into a dental partnership with a family member.

Some smaller practices comprise a partnership between a dentist and their spouse, but if the spouse is not a General Dental Council (GDC) registrant, this may be illegal.

Nick Hancock is a Chartered Accountant and a NASDAL member, who was recently asked for advice by a dentist in partnership with his wife who was the practice manager. "Regrettably, I had to inform the dentist that he should dissolve the partnership. Under The Dentists Act 1984 it states ‘… an individual who is not a registered dentist or a registered medical prac—
titioner shall not carry on the business of dentistry …’

Damien Charlton, a member of the NASDAL Lawyers Group says there is one exception. ‘When the practice holds a General Dental Services (GDS) contract, the National Health Service Act 2006 permits certain non-GDC registrants - including a GDS practice employee - to enter a GDS contract. The Dentists Act specifically states that receiving income under a GDS contract is not deemed, for the purposes of that Act, to be carrying on the business of dentistry.’

He added: ‘It’s essential that the partnership formed for the purposes of the GDS contract is kept separate from any private work carried out by the practice because it is only receipt of income under a GDS contract that falls within the exception to the definition of ‘the business of dentistry.’ This means (amongst other things) keeping separate sets of accounts and ensuring that the non-GDC registrant does not receive any income from the non-GDS parts of the practice.’

Dentists in an ‘illegal partnership’ are strongly advised to dissolve it. Once the partnership has dissolved, the registered dentist can continue to trade in a differ—
tent format. This could be as a sole trader, a limited liability partnership or as a limited company. It is essential that you seek expert financial and legal advice to ensure that the structure you choose complies with the complex rules and regulations that govern the practice of dentistry.

BDA Scotland welcomes new director

P ut Kilpatrick has been ap—
pointed as the new Direc tor of the British Dental Association (BDA) for Scotland. She will take up her post in January 2015 and brings to the post extensive experience in the healthcare sector including operational and strategic man—
agement, policy development, and postgraduate teaching and research.

Graduating from the Univer—
sity of Dundee, Pat joined the Graduate Training Scheme for NHS management before going on to senior roles within NHS Scotland including Director of Clinical Development at NHS Argyll and Clyde and Director of Planning at North Glasgow University Hospitals Trust. She led the National Task Force on the development of Primary Care Trusts in Scotland in 1997.

As Academic Director in the School of Management at the University of Stirling, she devel—
oped the first MBA postgraduate degree programme designed to develop the management skills of both doctors and dentists.

Latterly her career has been in consulting. She joined Tribal Consulting in 2006 as a Director within their national advisory team, before going on to launch her own business in 2010.

Pat said: ‘Dentistry in Scotland faces a complex set of challe ng—
es. I look forward to playing my part in helping the profession overcome them and advancing the cause of oral health in Scot—
land.’