X-ray warning of unsafe scanners

Handheld scanners found to be dangerously faulty

Bruce Petrie, of the MHRA’s Medical Devices Enforcement Team, said: “It’s vital that dentists and dental staff do not buy these dental X-ray machines from eBay or other websites because they are not approved and not safe for dentists or patients.

“We have seized 15 of these X-ray machines from the distributor and we are working with eBay and other government agencies to ensure dentists and patients are protected. We urge anyone who has bought one of these machines to contact us on the MHRA’s hotline on 020 3080 6701 or at counterfeit@mhra.gsi.gov.uk.”

At least one dentist in the UK is known to have used the device, and many others have said to have been interested in buying one.
Government crackdown on binge drinking

Ministers are proposing a minimum price of £0.45 per unit of alcohol sold in England and Wales as part of a package of measures aimed at reducing problem drinking and its associated risks for health and society as a whole.

In addition to the introduction of minimum pricing, the Home Office wants a ban on multi-buy promotions, such as two-for-one offers, and a new health-related objective for alcohol licensing.

This latter measure would mean licensing authorities would be able to consider alcohol-related health harms when managing problems relating to the number of premises selling alcohol in their area.

Damian Green, the government’s policing minister, commented: ‘The evidence is clear - the availability of cheap alcohol contributes to harmful levels of drinking.

‘It can’t be right that it is possible to purchase a can of beer for as little as 20p.’

Figures suggest that irresponsible drinking costs the taxpayer £21 billion per year, with hospitals admitting 1.2 million patients with alcohol-related problems last year alone.

Australian example should be followed, charity urges

On Saturday 1 December, Australia became the first country to strip all tobacco products of branding and replace them with graphic health warnings designed to reduce the number of tobacco-related deaths.

The new law means all cigarettes will now be sold in olive green packets containing graphic images warning of the consequences of smoking, legislation that organisers of Mouth Cancer Action Month believe should be enforced in the UK.

The news comes on the final day of the campaign, and is welcomed by Chief Executive of the British Dental Health Foundation, Dr Nigel Carter OBE.

Dr Carter said: “Any legislation designed to put people off smoking, particularly young people taking up the habit, is one the Foundation fully supports.

“These particular images are extremely graphic. If people continue to turn a blind eye to the dangers posed by smoking, they are putting themselves at real risk from a number of diseases and should see what damage smoking does.”

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Chair of Public Health England’s Advisory Board announced

Professor David Heymann has been confirmed as Chair of Public Health England’s Advisory Board.

He is currently Chairman of the Health Protection Agency and in his new role will Chair the Advisory Board that supports the Chief Executive of Public Health England in delivering its mission to protect and improve the nation’s health, address inequalities and improve the health of the poorest fastest.

Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt said: “I am delighted to confirm Professor David Heymann as Chair of Public Health England’s Advisory Board. He brings a wealth of experience to the role as a public health scientist and doctor at both national and international level.”

Professor David Heymann said: “I feel very privileged to be appointed as Chair of Public Health England’s Advisory Board. Public Health England offers an unrivalled opportunity to make a real difference to the health and wellbeing of the nation.

“I am looking forward to continuing to work with Duncan and his team and am confident that we have the expertise to support local government as they take on their new responsibility for improving and protecting the public’s health, as well as working in partnership with the NHS and other stakeholders locally and nationally.”

Chief Executive of Public Health England Duncan Selbie said: “I am greatly looking forward to working with David in pursuit of our mission and ambition.”

Professor Heymann will take up post formally as Chair of Public Health England’s Advisory Board on 1 April 2013, when Public Health England becomes fully operational.

Aspire Academy shapes ‘leaders of tomorrow’ at The Dentistry Show

The all new ‘Aspire Academy’ will be running its first conference for newly qualified dentists on Friday 1st March at the 2013 Dentistry Show.

Hosted by Raj Bollan, the free to attend conference will offer clinical and professional insight into being a modern dentist and a future practice owner, with presentations from Nilesh Parmar and Prem-Pal Selhmi, Kevin Lewis, Elaine Halley and Daz Singh.

Five sessions, each with a mini-ipad up for grabs, together with a host of online content and offers from Smile. On will be available for delegates who attend, followed by networking drinks and access to a discounted after dinner ticket for the “The Big Heart Party” in aid of Heart Your Smile.

Dentists who qualified between 2007 and 2011 can register to access a free delegate place at www.thedentistryshow.co.uk/aspire
Following an open and rigorous recruitment exercise, David Prior has emerged as the Government’s preferred candidate for the post of Chair of the Care Quality Commission.

The Secretary of State for Health has today invited the Health Select Committee to hold a public pre-appointment scrutiny hearing and report on the candidate’s suitability for the post, in line with proposals for scrutiny of key positions in which Parliament has an interest.

After a hearing, the Committee will set out its views on the candidate’s suitability for this post. The Secretary of State will then consider the conclusions of the Committee’s report carefully before deciding whether or not to proceed with the appointment.

David Prior is Chairman of Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals Foundation Trust and Chair of an Academy School. David qualified as a barrister and spent ten years in the Steel Industry. Between 1995-2002 he served in a number of political roles, including as MP for North Norfolk, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive of the Conservative Party and a member of the Trade and Industry Select Committee. He has been Chair of a wide range of private companies.
A new review shows that vitamin D could help prevent dental caries or tooth decay. The review, published in the December issue of Nutrition Reviews, encompassed 24 controlled clinical trials, spanning the 1920s to the 1980s, on approximately 5,000 children in several countries.

“My main goal was to summarise the clinical trial database so that we could take a fresh look at this vitamin D question,” said Dr. Philippe Hujoel of the University of Washington, who conducted the review.

The clinical trials he reviewed were conducted in the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Austria, New Zealand and Sweden. Trials were conducted in institutional settings, schools, medical and dental practices, or hospitals. The subjects were children or young adults between the ages of two and 16 years, with a weighted mean age of 10 years.

The vitamin D question takes on greater importance in the light of current public health trends. Vitamin D levels in many populations are decreasing while dental caries levels in young children are increasing.

“Whether this is more than just a coincidence is open to debate,” Hujoel said. “In the meantime, pregnant women or young mothers can do little harm by realising that vitamin D is essential to their offspring’s health. Vitamin D does lead to teeth and bones that are better mineralised.”

Hujoel added a note of caution to his findings: “One has to be careful with the interpretation of this systematic review. The trials had weaknesses which could have biased the result, and most of the trial participants lived in an era that differs profoundly from today’s environment.”

A recent article in the Journal of Oral Implantology suggests that introducing microcracks in the jawbone can stimulate bone growth.

The article describes an approach to oral implant surgery for patients with severely atrophic jaws that stimulates bone activation of the future implant location.

Dental patients with severely atrophic jaws have poor quality and quantity of bone in which to place an implant. Using the Osteotensor, a purpose-designed instrument, a series of microcracks are created in the jawbone. A biological response then takes place: proteins, stem cells, and other growth factors work to regenerate the bone.

After 45 to 90 days, implant surgery can take place. Solid titanium disks are implanted into the bone bed and covered by biomaterial. A rigid, screw-fixed prosthesis can then be immediately loaded and become functional.

The authors of the article report the case of a 74-year-old woman treated with this technique after she declined to undergo a bone grafting procedure. Forty-five days after microcracks induced bone activation, the same Osteotensor instrument could no longer penetrate bone at 25 of 42 impact sites. After 90 days, none of the sites could be penetrated. Softer, type IV bone had been transformed to harder, type II bone, and it was safe to proceed with implant surgery.

Two years later, the patient’s implants were osseointegrated, and the regenerated bone had become functional.

Vitamin D could prevent tooth decay

Patients put off dentist due to cost

Glasgow Dental School gets £2.5m makeover

Dental services and teaching at the Glasgow Dental Hospital and School have completed a £2.5m refurbishment programme.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC) have invested almost £2m on a significant project to modernise the hospital’s restorative dental clinics and expand the central instrument de-contamination unit.

To complete the package of enhancements at the hospital the University of Glasgow have also invested £500,000 in transforming a traditional biochemistry laboratory into a multi-media teaching facility.

The new teaching suite is to be named the Dorothy Geddes Multi-media Facility in memory of the late Professor Geddes, who was a pioneering dental surgeon and oral biologist and the first woman to hold a professorship in dentistry at a UK university.

At a special event to officially open the new facilities NHSGGC Chairman Andrew Robertson said: “The benefit of these investments will reach many thousands of dental patients treated each year. The newly refurbished and expanded decontamination unit will serve not only the dental hospital but also 17 community dental clinics in and around Glasgow offering the very highest standard of instrument decontamination available.

The refurbishment includes a newly expanded central decontamination unit, new restorative dentistry clinics, a full 3D projection system, and a virtual microscopy suite.

According to a new survey, almost one third of people are putting off going to the dentist because of the cost.

The survey, carried out on behalf of the Irish Dental Association, found that there has been an increase in the number of patients who wait until they experience pain to visit a dentist.

Three quarters of dentists surveyed said they have seen an increase in the number of patients who arrive at a surgery in pain while 95 per cent of dentists have seen a marked increase in the number of extractions performed. Significantly, 91 per cent of dentists have seen a decrease in patient attendance.

Dr Peter Gannon of the IDA said the results were alarming.

“The simple preventive treatments that were available were key to maintaining good dental health for many people. It is worrying to see such problems so soon and I am concerned that we are returning to the days of extractions and dentures” he said.
Aspire Academy - for tomorrow’s leaders
Friday 1st March at the Dentistry Show

Free to attend
www.thedentistryshow.co.uk/leaders

Offering newly qualified dentists a clinical and professional insight into being a modern dentist and a future practice owner. If you qualified between 2007 and 2011 then this is for you - it’s what you don’t get taught at dental school.

• Free to attend
• Membership to the Aspire Academy
• A mini-ipad up for grabs in each of the 5 sessions
• A host of online content and special offers from Smile-on
• Networking drinks after the Show
• Discounted party ticket for the Heart Your Smile Ball

Hosted by Raj Rattan with presentations from Nilesh Parmar & Prem-Pal Sehmi, Kevin Lewis, Elaine Halley and Daz Singh

Register for free by 18th January and book your place alongside the leaders of tomorrow.
Lack of fixtures review could drive down value of practice

Changes to the Capital Allowances Act could affect practice owners wishing to sell up.

“You could benefit from a tax refund now as well as laying important groundwork in advance of selling your practice. The earlier one of these clauses is done the better because as well as a potential tax refund, it provides additional capital allowances going forward”, said NASDAL member Nick Hancock of specialist dental accountants Albert Goodman.

Until now, the ‘qualifying fixtures’ have normally been left as part of the freehold acquisition price. For a commercial property being sold after 5 April 2014, one of these reviews must be undertaken as part of the sales process. After that date, the vendor and the purchaser will need to specifically agree the sales price of these fixtures, usually by making a joint election under Section 108 of the CAA 2001 to achieve the capital allowance position.

Failure to carry out a fixtures review could drive down the value of the practice. Nick explained: ‘If qualifying assets are not identified with a Section 198 election being agreed, then effectively the buyer and all subsequent owners will have no opportunity to make a capital allowance claim on qualifying fixtures going forward. This could well have a detrimental effect on the sale proceeds figure when you try and sell your property.”

All change for Careers Day 2013

A number of new features including a CV clinic, business room and hands-on demonstrations will be on offer alongside the regular mix of practical advice, lectures, and exhibition at next year’s BDA UCL Eastman Careers Day, the newly-published programme reveals.

The annual event, which takes place on 8 February at London’s Hotel Russell, gives young dentists the chance to explore a range of career options and specialisms. Each of the eight rooms at the event will offer a full programme centred around a particular theme such as general practice, specialties, business and finance, experience building, and hospitals and special care.

For the first time in 2013 the day will also include a special programme of guidance sessions for those who are studying or have passed their ORE exam and a dedicated hands-on demonstration programme where a range of experts will demonstrate new clinical techniques on phantom head simulators. There will also be a dedicated CV Clinic offering delegates the chance to get one-to-one advice with the speakers.

There will also be a panel discussion looking at the organisation of dentistry in the future. The panel will include Chief Dental Officer Barry Cockcroft alongside Professor Andrew Eder, Professor of Restorative Dentistry and Dental Education at the Eastman Dental Institute, Elizabeth Jones, Dean of Postgraduate Dentistry for the London Deanery, and Peter Ward, Chief Executive at the BDA. The discussion will be chaired by Dr Judith Husband, Chair of Education and Ethics for the BDA’s Principal Executive Committee.

Speaking ahead of the event, Dr Judith Husband, said: ‘Those starting out on their career in dentistry will find, at the Careers Day, everything they need to help them take those essential first steps. I am pleased that we are once again working with the UCL Eastman Dental Institute to host this event.’

A full programme for the day and booking information is available on the dedicated event page on the BDA website.

Tooth agenesis linked to family history of cancer

Individuals with tooth agenesis have an increased risk of having a family history of cancer, a new study in the Journal of Dental Research has found.

Researchers from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine recruited 82 individuals and 528 individuals with no birth defect from the same institution to carry out the study.

Tooth agenesis was assessed in permanent teeth and was defined based on the age of the participants and when initial tooth formation should be radiographically visible.

The results showed that individuals with tooth agenesis had an increased risk of having a family history of cancer (p = 0.00006). Despite this, the researchers concluded that prospective studies are needed to confirm if tooth agenesis can be used as a risk marker for cancer.

White night for CRISIS

Members of the dental community braved the cold to gather for a fundraiser with a difference!

Aptly named the Ice White party, the event saw more than 200 guests come together at the swanky Holborn House club in central London for an evening of dancing and entertainment to raise money for the homeless charity CRISIS.

Organiser of the event, dentist Nilesh R Parmar commented: ‘The Ice White party was a huge success and I am overwhelmed by the support of the entire dental community. It was an overwhelming event to organise but with help from Louise (Manan Ltd) and Raj Bhandot (owner of the CAA 2001 to achieve the capital allowance position.

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A full programme for the day and booking information is available on the dedicated event page on the BDA website.

To donate to CRISIS via the Ice White party, go to www.justgiving.com/thecrissmasparty.

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Wrigley oral healthcare programme appoints new global manager

The Wrigley Oral Health Programme (WOHP) has appointed Matthew Kent as the new Global Manager. Wrigley has hired the senior health commms specialist to drive the further development of the Programme which is focused on helping dental care professionals and patients better understand the role of sugarfree gum in their oral care routine. Matthew will be based in Wrigley’s UK headquarters putting the spotlight on the UK as leading the way in better oral health. WOHP operates in 47 countries around the world and is grounded in more than two decades of clinical research.

Matthew has a wealth of experience in both the UK and internationally. Previously Associate Director of London-based healthcare agency 9OTEN, Matthew was responsible for delivering innovative solutions in public relations, medical education and treatment adherence through smart healthcare communications with a creative edge. Prior to 9OTEN, Matthew held a senior position at communications in New York where he specialised in delivering high impact campaigns for brands and companies in pharmaceutical and consumer health.

Commenting on the appointment, Matthew Bowntre, Communications Manager of the UK Oral Health Programme, said: “Matthew has great strategic and planning skills coupled with a track record of delivering well-executed healthcare communications. His international background will be key to delivering the Programme’s oral health messages globally as well as promoting the great work the Programme is doing in the UK.”

Matthew added: “This is an exciting time for Wrigley in oral care and I’m delighted to be driving the global Wrigley Oral Healthcare Programme from here in the UK. Much of what happens in the UK informs and inspires our activities across the world, from educational resources to public policy outreach. I’m looking forward to providing new creative and strategic insight, to further engage dental professionals and their patients on the benefits of chewing sugar-free gum as part of an oral care routine.”

The benefits of chewing sugar-free gum are well documented and it is a clinically proven way to look after oral health whilst ‘on the go’. The science behind chewing is simple - chewing sugarfree gum after eating and drinking stimulates the flow of saliva which washes away food debris, helps neutralises damaging plaque acids and remineralises tooth enamel. The proven benefits of chewing sugarfree gum provide a strong reason for dental professionals to recommend chewing to their patients.

IDH to launch dental academy

Integrated Dental Holdings (IDH) has announced the creation of a Dental Academy, providing leading edge clinical training for its dentists, which will launch in Spring 2013.

The vision behind the Dental Academy is to deliver world-class training programmes initially for IDH staff, as part of IDH’s commitment to the development of its people and the highest standards of dental care across the UK. Once established, The Academy will also open its doors to the wider profession and offer high-quality development for non-IDH dentists.

All forms of training are there to up-skill dentists so they can provide more complex treatments and will also cover their general CPD as well as nurse, hygienist and therapist training.

Richard Smith, CEO at IDH says, “Dentistry is a rapidly changing industry in the UK, developments in preventative care and cosmetic solutions have increased the industry’s need for an enhanced skill mix from dentists. As the largest employer of dentists and practice staff in the UK the Academy is our way of responding to the changing needs of our staff and customers.”

Denplan Announces New Life Presidents

Following its acquisition by Simplyhealth, Denplan has announced that its former Chairman, David Phillips and former Non-Executive Director, Meredyth Bell, have accepted roles as Life Presidents at Denplan.

The Life President role has been created to recognise David and Meredyth’s commitment to Denplan over the years and their ongoing involvement and support for the dental profession.

Denplan Managing Director, Steve Gates commented: “I’m thrilled that we have been able to secure the services of David and Meredyth. In their new roles as Life Presidents they will continue to play a key role in a number of Denplan activities and remain ambassadors for the business. They have both been instrumental in the success of Denplan over the many years we have known each other.”

The ADI Committee, which comprises 15 clinicians and one technician representative from around the UK, meets on a quarterly basis to direct the future of the organisation on behalf of its 2,000 members. Juliette will be involved in liaising with and representing the ADI’s DCP members, ensuring that their interests are being met. Juliette is a successful health communications director with more than 50 years’ experience. Her main areas of interest are nutritional influences in periodontal disease, stress and bone density. Juliette has received training in implant maintenance from master class academies in Geneva, Liechtenstein and more recently in the US.

Juliette says, “I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to work with the ADI Committee on behalf of my fellow DCP’s. As the field of implant dentistry develops and the number of implant placements increases, it is critical that the dental team also progresses.”

The Association of Dental Implantology (ADI) has elected Juliette Reeves as their first official Dental Care Professional Committee Member. Juliette, a hygienist, will represent dental care professional (DCP) members on the ADI Committee over the next two years, as announced at the ADI’s annual general meeting on Monday 19 November.

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