**Individualised feedback reduces prescription of antibiotics**

By DTI

CAMBRIDGE, UK: While dentists only prescribe 10 per cent of all antibiotics in the UK, they often prescribe them inappropriately. Over prescription of antibiotics could be reduced to some extent if practitioners receive individualised feedback about their prescription practices the results of a trial, published in the *PLoS Medicine* journal, among NHS dentists in Scotland have indicated.

In a study involving all 795 antibiotic-prescribing general dentistry practices in the country, a group of researchers from Dundee, Aberdeen and Glasgow sent out graphic plots of the monthly prescription rates of each dentist at the respective practices, which were randomly selected. Some of these practices were also sent a written behaviour change message reiterating national recommendations.

After 12 months, the rate of prescriptions was compared to those of practices that had received neither graphs nor messages. The researchers found an overall reduction of 5 per cent in the group that had received the feedback.

Although the intervention achieved a slight reduction, the researchers suggested that multifaceted measures like audit and feedback intervention might offer no advantage over single measures because of their complexity and the overall costs involved. They, however, emphasised the need to develop new strategies to change health professionals’ prescribing behaviour.

Previous studies have found that, despite clinical guidelines, antibiotic prescriptions are often given by dentists without clinical need.

Last year, medical bodies in the UK, including the British Dental Association, joined the One Health initiative in order to promote responsible use of antibiotics in dentistry and other fields of medicine.

The study, titled “An audit and feedback intervention for reducing antibiotic prescribing in general dental practice: The RAPID cluster randomised controlled trial,” was published on 30 August in *PLoS Medicine*.

**Infection scare dentist struck off**

By DTI

LONDON, UK: The General Dental Council (GDC) has struck off a Nottingham dentist responsible for the largest recall of patients in the history of the NHS from its professional Conduct Committee, Gavin Scott.

Desmond D’Mello was removed for reasons of misconduct owing to 55 allegations of failure to maintain basic standards of infection control or prescribe antibiotics without a thorough assessment of patients’ needs.

As a result, more than 22,000 patients were offered a recall for blood tests owing to the risk of exposure to infection in 2014.

His actions were revealed by a whistle-blower, who recorded some of the failings on video. The films showed that he did not change his gloves or surgical mask and wiped his hands on his trousers instead of washing them, among other grossly hazardous practices.

In connection with D’Mello, the GDC also subjected one of his co-workers, a dental nurse who worked in the same practice, to a conditional registration for a period of 10 months.

“Mr D’Mello has abused the trust of his patients in exposing them to serious risk of harm and subjected those patients affected to an appalling and agonising ordeal as they undergo invasive blood-testing,” commented the chairperson of the GDC’s Professional Conduct Committee, Gavin Scott, on the decision. “His behaviour is fundamentally incompatible with being a dental professional, and his behaviour is so damaging to public confidence in the dental profession.”

D’Mello did not attend any of the hearings or have legal representation. In a letter to the GDC last year, he applied for voluntary erasure from the GDC register.

He stated too that he had no intention of ever practising dentistry again.

---

**IMPRINT**

**PUBLISHER**

Torrison DEMUS

**GROUP EDITOR/MANAGING EDITOR DT AP & UK**

Daniel ZIMMER/ANN HOFFMANN

nnr@tribune.com

**CLINICAL EDITOR**

Maria POUTIEN

**ONLINE EDITOR**

Ghidula DUYSCHER

**EDITOR**

Anne SALMANN

**ASSISTENT EDITOR**

Kristen HÜBNER

**COPY EDITORS**

Salvina RASTA, Hans-MUTHSCHMANN

**PRODUCTION**

Torrison DEMUS

**DTP/CDR**

Den WUNDERLICH

**MEDIA SALES MANAGERS**

Mathias KESSENGER

Peter WITTEZIEK

Maria KASIK

Melissa BROWN

Wenwhana MAGOEWANGI

Hilmar CARSTENSEN

Anja KALNF

**INTERNATIONAL & PROJECT MANAGER**

Marc CHALUPSKY

**MARKETING & SALES SERVICES**

Nicole ANZARU

**ACCOUNTING**

Karen HAMATSCHKE

**DESIGNER**

Marius MEZGER

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**

Torrison DEMUS

**AD PRODUCTION**

Marius MEZGER

**DESIGN**

Franziska DACHSEL

**INTERNATIONAL EDITORIAL BOARD**

Dr Marion KLEIN, Germany

Dr Karl-Ludwig ECKERMANN, UK

Dr George HADJISTEFANOU, Canada

Dr Howard GEAR, UK

Prof. Dr. R. H. G. GRIEVE, Switzerland

Dr Janet STEELE, Ireland

Dr John HALL, UK

Dr Andrew ROSS, Ireland

Dr R. Martin SCOTT, US

**PUBLISHED BY DTI**

**DENTAL TRIBUNE INTERNATIONAL**

Hohemannstr. 29, 16429, Lübeck, Germany

Tel: +49 154 44847 052

Fax: +49 154 44847 073

info@dental-tribune.com

www.dental-tribune.com

**Regional Offices**

**DENTAL TRIBUNE AFRICA**

P.O. Box 399, Block D, Industrial City Estate, P.O. Box 360, Lanqala, Time Square, Sandton, South Africa

Tel: +27 11 258 7068

Fax: +27 11 258 7177

**DENTAL TRIBUNE AMERICA**

115 West 23rd Street, Suite 502, New York, NY 10011, USA

Tel: +1 212 244 7181

Fax: +1 212 244 7185

www.dental-tribune.com

**DENTAL TRIBUNE UK**

105-111 Thomson Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Tel: +852 3113 6177

Fax: +852 3113 5137

www.dental-tribune.com

"When I will be your age..." — “When I was your age...”