

## THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF X-RAYS DURING WWI

This issue's cover image shows the X-ray department of the Queen's Hospital at Froggnal House in Sidcup, Britain's first purpose-built plastic surgery institution. The photograph features two men posed with the hospital's X-ray equipment and a patient prepared for a radiographic analysis. Radiographs played a crucial role in diagnosis and planning of treatment for the facial injury patients at Sidcup. Harold Gillies (1882-1960) used a number of the radiographic images produced by the department to illustrate the cases in



The X-Ray Department of the Queen's Hospital in Sidcup, c.1918. From the Antony Wallace Archive of the British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (BAPRAS)

his monumental 1920 work *Plastic surgery of the face*. The figure in the foreground wearing an officer's uniform is possibly Captain Henry Mulrea Johnston, the surgeon who Gillies thanked in the preface to the volume for his ingenuity in adapting existing technology to jaw injuries. The man in the background is an unnamed technician.

Although X-rays, or Röntgen rays, had only been discovered in 1895, by the First World War radiographic technology was already widely used in medicine. Five mobile X-ray units were available at the Front, in addition to many of the casualty clearing stations and base hospitals. The bulky equipment used on the Front was not particularly well suited to imaging dental injuries. In this photograph the X-ray unit has been adapted for jaw injuries by Mulrea Johnston. The patient is shown with the head angled to take an oblique lateral view of the jaw. The men in the photograph are wearing protective aprons as the dangers of X-rays were increasingly recognised during the war years. In 1915, the British Röntgen Society introduced its first code of practice to counter the harmful effects of X-rays by recommending screens, gloves and aprons for operators.

*With thanks to Kristin Hussey, Assistant Curator, Hunterian Museum.*

## NEW HEALTH CLEARANCE GUIDANCE PUBLISHED

The Medical Schools Council, the Dental Schools Council, Public Health England, Health Protection Scotland, the Association of UK University Hospitals, and Higher Education Occupational Practitioners have published revised guidance relating to health clearance for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV and tuberculosis. This guidance is intended for use by medical and dental schools, occupational health services and health provider organisations.

This guidance for medical and dental students is aligned with the Department of Health (DH) health clearance guidance (2007) which defines standard health clearance, for all categories of new healthcare worker employed or starting training, and additional health clearance for new healthcare workers who will perform exposure prone procedures (EPPs). Guidance on health clearance for tuberculosis is reproduced in the annex to this publication.

The 2014 publication replaces the 2008 guidance, specifically relating to revised DH guidance for healthcare workers with HIV who perform EPPs.

[www.dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk](http://www.dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk)

## HELP YOUR PATIENTS STUB IT OUT THIS STOPTOBER

Public Health England (PHE) is launching Stoptober 2014, a 28-day stop smoking challenge that encourages and supports smokers across the country towards quitting for good, and hopes that dental health professionals will encourage their patients to take part.

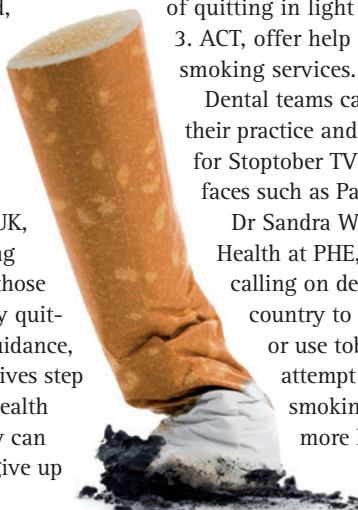
Launched in 2012, Stoptober is the biggest mass quit attempt in the UK, with 250,000 people taking part in 2013 and 65% of those who took part successfully quitting for 28 days. PHE's guidance, released in March 2013, gives step by step advice to dental health professionals on how they can support their patients to give up smoking and tobacco use.

The guidance explains how to offer very brief advice, using a '30 second approach', to tobacco users and signpost them to local stop smoking services by following three simple steps: 1. ASK, establish and record smoking status; 2. ADVISE on the personal benefits of quitting in light of findings in the mouth; and 3. ACT, offer help and signpost to local stop smoking services.

Dental teams can also request materials online for their practice and remind their patients to look out for Stoptober TV advertisements featuring famous faces such as Paddy McGuinness and Al Murray.

Dr Sandra White, Director of Dental Public Health at PHE, said: 'This Stoptober PHE are calling on dental health professionals across the country to support their patients who smoke or use tobacco to take up the challenge and attempt to quit. Notably if you can stop smoking for 28-days, you are five times more likely to be able to quit for good.'

For PHE's Smokefree and smiling guidance, visit <https://>



[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/288835/SmokeFree\\_Smiling\\_110314\\_FINALjw.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/288835/SmokeFree_Smiling_110314_FINALjw.pdf)

To request Stoptober materials, visit [http://resources.smokefree.nhs.uk/resources/results/?sstring=Type+a+search+term&resource\\_type=Orderable+items&x=27&y=12](http://resources.smokefree.nhs.uk/resources/results/?sstring=Type+a+search+term&resource_type=Orderable+items&x=27&y=12).

*In other news, Macmillan Cancer Care has launched a fundraising challenge called 'Go Sober for October' in partnership with the Australian campaign, Dry July. To find out more, visit [www.gosober.org.uk](http://www.gosober.org.uk).*