

## GDC PUBLISHES NEW STANDARDS GUIDANCE

The General Dental Council (GDC) has published its new Standards for the dental team, replacing its current Standards Guidance.

The current standards were first published in May 2005, before the introduction of statutory registration for dental nurses, dental technicians, clinical dental technicians and orthodontic therapists.

Janet Collins, Head of Standards at the GDC, said that it has taken nearly three years to review the standards: 'We believe it has been worth the hard work. The project involved a mixture of both qualitative and quantitative research methods, registrant and stakeholder engagement and targeted qualitative research as well as consultation on the document itself. We listened to what people said throughout the process and made key changes on the basis of that feedback.'

The new standards include relevant patient expectations; standalone principles on communication and on personal behaviour; guidance on using social networking sites; greater emphasis on softer skills; and new requirements to display indicative prices for treatment.

The new guidance is effective from 30 September 2013 and can be viewed at [www.gdc-uk.org/Dentalprofessionals/Standards/Pages/standards.aspx](http://www.gdc-uk.org/Dentalprofessionals/Standards/Pages/standards.aspx). Hard copies were sent to all registered dental professionals in the summer.



## FIFTY PRACTICES ADDRESS CARIES MANAGEMENT



Over 250 dental professionals from 50 UK dental practices are undertaking a study addressing how best to deal with caries in young children's teeth.

'Filling Children's Teeth: Indicated or Not?' - or FICTION - is a study funded by the National Institute for Health Research's Health Technology Assessment Programme and will inform the debate around managing caries in the primary dentition by providing robust evidence.

The study is investigating three approaches to managing caries in the primary teeth of 3-7-year-olds: 1) the conventional approach with prevention - fully removing caries using local anaesthesia and conventional restorations; 2) the biological approach with prevention - caries is either left *in situ* or only partially removed before being sealed off from the oral environment using adhesive restorations or preformed metal crowns; and finally 3) the prevention alone approach - arresting dental caries by application of intensive preventive techniques according to national guidelines.

The dental practices taking part in the study are volunteers from Cardiff, London, North-East England, Scotland, Yorkshire and Derbyshire, making FICTION one of the biggest clinical studies ever to take place in primary dental care in the UK. Regular regional meetings are being held to bring the individual practices together to discuss the progress of the trial and to share experiences.

More information on the FICTION Trial can be found at <http://research.ncl.ac.uk/fictiontrial/> or you can email the Trial Administrator, Amy Caldwell-Nichols, at [fiction@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:fiction@dundee.ac.uk).

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## DTA AN OFFICIAL TECH SHOW PARTNER



DTA President Barry Appleby (left) with BDTA Executive Director, Tony Reed

The British Dental Trade Association (BDTA) has announced that the Dental Technologists Association (DTA) will be an official partner of the brand new BDTA Tech Show being held at the Ricoh Arena, Coventry, on 16-17 May 2014.

DTA President Barry Appleby said: 'We have chosen to partner with Tech Show as we feel it is important to maintain an exclusive event dedicated to dental technology for technicians and laboratory owners. As partners we will be playing a considerable part in putting on an event that will be of great value to our members and the dental technology sector as a whole.'

BDTA Tech Show will showcase dental technology and feature world class speakers and more than 35 free seminars across five zones as part of the exhibition.

More information on the show is available at [www.dentaltechshow.com](http://www.dentaltechshow.com).