Working without a nurse

I am a dental hygienist, having qualified five years ago. I have worked in nine different practices as a hygienist: one practice since qualifying and others as a casual member of staff. I have been communicating with other hygienists on the internet across the country via Facebook.

On one of the sessions online, I wrote that I do not work with a nurse. I am given the assistance of a nurse to help when pocket charting is required or if I am struggling with aspiration. This is not on a regular basis though. I was struck by how many hygienists commented on me working without a nurse. Statements such as 'you cannot give your patients 100% without a nurse', 'medico-legally you won't stand a chance if a complaint comes against you and you don't have a chaperone', 'wouldn't dream of working without one' or 'you shouldn't be working without one' and so on.

From experience I have found working with a nurse, when essential, makes my role easier. After the string of messages I received regarding this, I felt the pressing need to find out how many general dental practices in the area I work, did provide a nurse for their hygienist. The areas I covered were Tunbridge Wells (23 practices), Tonbridge (6) and Sevenoaks (6).

I had responses from 28 practices. Only three of these practices supplied a nurse for assisting their hygienist (one in Tonbridge and two in Tunbridge Wells). One practice did not have a hygienist at all. In all of the other surgeries the hygienist worked alone. Seven practices did not participate. They either would not answer the phone (though multiple calls were made over a period of days) or they declined to answer my question on whether they supplied a nurse for their hygienist.

Kirsty Ranger
Dental Hygienist

Snail mail: Vital Editorial, NPG,
4-6 Crinan Street, London N1 9XW

Next issue's star letter writer will win
Beverly Hills Formula goodies worth £100.

Letters may be edited for space. Opinions
expressed do not necessarily reflect those of
the editorial team or publishers.

ADDITIONS TO DCP COURSE DIRECTORY

The next Vital DCP course directory will be published in summer 2012.

Cotswold training

Thank you very much for including our Cotswold Dental Training NEBDN certificate course in the recent *DCP course directory* (Vital summer 2011; pages 15-20). Unfortunately the email address was incorrect and I would like to provide a telephone number:

Contact: Jackie Gazzard

Email: jackiegazzard@hotmail.co.uk

Website: www.cotswolddentaltraining.co.uk

Phone: 0776 22 41138 or 01453 883867

Courses provided:

- NEBDN certificate course
- Dental nurse foundation training
- NEBDN Oral Health Education certificate course
- Dental Radiography
- CPD courses

Jackie Gazzard RDN LCGI FBADN CFET
Senior Tutor Cotswold Dental Training
NEBDN Examiner
South West Post Graduate Dental Deanery
DCP Advisor Wilts/Dorset

Nursing in Cardiff

Would it be possible for you to add the two dental nurse training courses we offer at Cardiff University Dental Hospital to your DCP course directory?

The University Dental Hospital of Wales, Cardiff provides the Level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing for both internal and external

candidates. Internal applications must be received by the end of March for the August intake. The external intake, for trainee dental nurses working in general dental practice, is open all year.

Contact: Anna Barrett on 02920 746495 or email anna.barrett@wales.nhs.uk or Penny Barker on 02920 748303, email: penny.barker@wales.nhs.uk.

Penny Barker

Lead NVQ Assessor/Tutor
University Dental Hospital, Cardiff

Ayrshire and Arran

I would be grateful if you would include us in your list of providers for SVQ in Dental Nursing level 3. We are NHS Ayrshire and Arran and our details are as below.

Susan McGregor

Dental Nurse Education Coordinator
Dental Nurse Education, Rooms 97-99,
Horseshoe Building, Ayrshire Central
Hospital, Irvine, KA12 8SS

Email: susan.mcgregor1@nhs.net

Tel: 01292 323457 Mobile: 07825227821

Certificates and CPD

We would very much like to be included in your next course list. At Reading, Newbury, Oxford and Basingstoke we offer:

- Nat Cert in Dental Nursing

- Nat Cert in Radiography
- Nat Cert in OHE
- Nat Cert in Orthodontic Nursing

We also offer CPD at our Reading centre for:

- Cross Infection
- Radiography update
- Medical Emergencies
- Legal and Ethical issues

We will also soon be offering fluoride application and impression taking courses.

Carin Lord

Cavity Dental Staff, Reading
Mobile: 07738756337
Tel/Fax: 0118 9076415

Tooth fairies in Wales

Please can you add a listing for Tooth Fairies Training Centre in South Wales to your course directory?

We offer the NEBDN Diploma in Dental Nursing and the NVQ Diploma in Dental Nursing. Our website address is www.toothfairiesdentalagency.co.uk, telephone 02920 799616 and email info@toothfairiesdentalagency.co.uk.

Debbie Hill

Tooth Fairies Training Centre