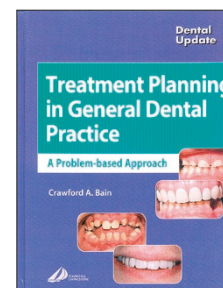
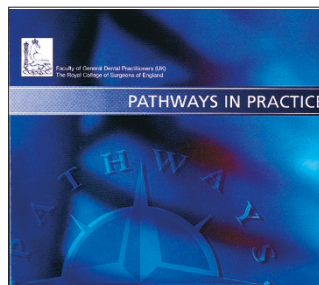


Books, videos, cd-roms, dvds and any other relevant items submitted for a review in the bdj should be addressed to:

Mike Grace, Editor, British Dental Journal,  
64 Wimpole Street W1G 8YS



## Pathways in Practice

### Vol 1 & 2

Faculty of General Dental Practitioners  
London: Royal College of Surgeons of England, 2003  
price £225 Members, £250 Non Members,  
ISBN 095434510X

*Pathways in Practice* first published by the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners in 1993, has now been completely revised and updated in 2003. It is now published in two volumes, and addresses all the requirements of the recently restructured MFGDP (UK) examination, apart from the Basic Sciences, which are well covered in the series of articles which first appeared in the *British Dental Journal*. Not only does the publication attempt to cover changes in scientific knowledge and clinical practice, it also covers many aspects of practice management and changes in legislation affecting GDPs.

Although this publication is primarily aimed at covering the syllabus of the MFGDP exam, it is an invaluable source for all GDPs, whether taking the exam or not. This is a book that can be dipped into at random, or read as a whole. In Volume 1, the reader is taken from initial consultation and treatment planning to then cover all aspects of treatment considerations. The chapters cover everything from the diagnostic process to restorative work, implants and full dentures. Volume 2 concentrates on the less clinical, but equally important aspects of practice, such as practice management, health and safety and evidence based dentistry. I would have liked to have seen a little more attention paid to the wider field of business as opposed to practice management aspects of general practice.

The whole publication has been made more comprehensible by the frequent use of tables and flow diagrams. The majority of the tables are well designed and easy to understand, however, the same cannot be said of some of the flow charts, which I found in many cases to be over complicated, with so many routes available that they became difficult to

follow, resulting in considerable confusion about the destination.

The content of the chapters is well written, and although the subjects are treated in some considerable depth, I found it refreshing that readers are reminded of certain fundamental skills essential for good dental practice. The use of essential medical skills, such as the correct use of a sphygmomanometer is but one example of this. Many of the clinical chapters served to whet the appetite for further reading, all of which contained enough comprehensive technical information to keep the attention and provide much interest and education, but not so much excess of detail that boredom set in.

The index, an area often overlooked in many publications, is comprehensive. Not only this, but it is clear, it is simple to navigate, and with more than a single reference to most items, finding an item of particular interest is straightforward.

This is a publication I would recommend to any practitioner who wishes to not only keep abreast of recent changes in techniques or legislation but also to develop their clinical performance. Even at the fairly hefty price of £250, this is a worthwhile addition to any dentist's bookshelf.

M. Ashley

## Treatment Planning in General Dental Practice—A Problem Based Approach

C. A. Bain  
London: Churchill Livingstone, 2003  
price £32.99, pp153  
ISBN 0443071837

*Treatment Planning in General Dental Practice — A Problem-Based Approach*, is one of a series of books being published by Churchill Livingstone in collaboration with the *Dental Update Journal*. As such, as one would expect,

the book is beautifully illustrated with a plethora of interesting clinical cases. The eleven chapters follow the standard approach running from principles of problem-based treatment planning through to developing treatment options from a problem list identified by the dentist and the patient. The later chapters focus on very relevant issues for 2004: treatment planning — medico-legal issues, planning for aesthetic dentistry and adapting treatment planning principles to new technologies.

Overall, I really enjoyed reading the book. I was intrigued to look at the case studies and then decide whether I would have followed that path and further, whether I had the skill to do so! However, this leads me on to my only concern with the book. The author Crawford Bain draws on years of experience as both a clinician and teacher in this country and in North America. In the preface, he offers the book as an aid to both the dental student entering clinical education, the newly qualified dentist as well as the expert experienced clinician. I see the book very much more for the dentist who has completed general professional training and wants to develop his/her dentistry. I feel the book would be invaluable for study groups, enabling them to discuss treatment planning strategies and developing practice. For the novice trying to see the 'wood from the trees' some parts of the book might be over complex. Having said that, there are excellent sections on developing problem lists that are applicable to all groups, as well as valuable sections on communication in general practice and fee planning. In the appendix, there are some useful medical history proformas and medico-legal release forms.

As I have already said, I enjoyed reading this book and valued the author's considered and personal approach to his dentistry and at just under £33 you are buying a wealth of clinical experience.

D. Radford