



NEW RECALL GUIDE FOR DENTAL TEAMS WELCOMED BY BSPD

The British Society of Paediatric Dentistry (BSPD) has welcomed new recall guidance¹

designed to ensure the most vulnerable children and young people (CYP) get access to dental care as swiftly as possible. Published in September, the guidance supplements existing NICE recall guidance² which recommends CYP are seen at least annually.

A new implementation tool supports the guidance. Red, amber and green colour-coding provide dental teams with a clear direction on the CYP who should be prioritised for recall. In future, all dental practices should ensure the youngest and most vulnerable children are prioritised for care.

News of the updated guidance was issued in a joint bulletin from the Office of the Chief Dental Officer (OCDO) for England, Sara Hurley and Simon Kenny, National Clinical Director for Children and Young People, a collaboration underscoring the importance of the initiative.

BSPD's Dental Check by One campaign, launched in 2017, was driven by the recognition that an early appointment with a dentist was an opportunity for the family to get preventive advice. With 100,000 more children seeing a dentist in 2018/19, DCby1 was starting to take effect. This positive change was halted by the pandemic.

BSPD spokesperson Claire Stevens said: 'We are glad to see publication of this guidance which should improve oral health among the most vulnerable and vitally, help reduce inequalities.'

Dr Stevens said that children aged between two and five would be unlikely to

manage multiple extractions in a dental chair and usually needed a general anaesthetic.

'Consultants and specialists in paediatric dentistry hope very much that the impact of the recall guidance will be to reduce the number of very young children being referred to us for a general anaesthetic.'

References

1. NHS. Clinical dental policies. Recall of children for dental appointments: Implementation tool to support NICE guidance. Available at: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/primary-care/dentistry/clinical-policies/> (accessed 27 September 2021).
2. NICE. Dental checks: intervals between oral health reviews. Clinical guideline [CG19]. 27 October 2004. Available at: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg19/chapter/1-Guidance> (accessed 27 September 2021).

Campaign launched for menopause friendly dental workplaces

A campaign has been established to coincide with Menopause Awareness Month (October) to ensure that all NHS dental services have a menopause policy in place. Joseph Bell (pictured), who has just finished his dental core training, wants to see more menopause friendly workplaces.

With the backing of his colleague, Professor Claire Stevens, Joseph is setting out to eradicate the taboo that surrounds the menopause across dentistry. The idea for a campaign was born, Joseph explained, after a discussion on clinic about the menopause. Female colleagues shared their experience of menopausal symptoms, some suffering prematurely with fatigue, low mood, heavy bleeding, forgetfulness and hot flushes.

As the topic is openly discussed at his own family home (his mother helped to introduce a menopause policy in her workplace at HSBC bank), Joseph had no inhibitions about being part of the discussion. He said: 'I realised the subject was not usually talked about and that by opening discussions we could help to make big changes for the better and eradicate the taboo surrounding the M word.'

Not only are 76.9% of the dental team female,¹ 35% of dental care professionals (DCPs) and 43% of dentists are currently within the age range affected by menopause² meaning that a significant proportion of the dental workforce is going to be affected by the menopause.

Aspects of work which women cite as making menopause symptoms worse are overheated rooms, poor ventilation, humidity, no access to a quiet or restful space, and noise. Long hours, short and changing deadlines, high workloads and dealing with patients can also make symptoms worse.

Joseph said: 'With a high proportion of the dental workforce being female it is imperative we have a good understanding of what we can do to help. He added that he hopes to see training to create workplace environments where women feel comfortable talking to managers or principals about any health-related issues.

Professor Stevens added: 'I was so impressed to see the way Joseph launched his campaign here in Manchester. It's possible that in the future employment law will be

changed so that there is protection for women during the menopause – but Joe will have put dentistry ahead of the curve.'



References

1. General Dental Council. Registration Statistical Report 2020. August 2021. Available at: https://www.gdc-uk.org/docs/default-source/registration-reports/gdc-registration-statistical-report-2020---final311fef86-9e9f-44bb-81d8-68b3a44cae39.pdf?sfvrsn=918f77ec_5 (accessed 18 August 2021).
2. General Dental Council. Registration statistical report 2019. October 2020. Available at: https://www.gdc-uk.org/docs/default-source/registration-reports/gdc-registration-statistical-report-2019---final-30-09-2020.pdf?sfvrsn=53215636_12 (accessed 18 August 2021).