



NEW CAREER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BADN Presidential Column by **Jacqui Elsdon**, President 2019–2022

As we move towards the time of year for re-registration for dental care professionals (DCPs), my thoughts turn to our CPD and personal development plan (PDP) responsibilities. As GDC registrants we are obligated to steer our CPD via our 'Field of Practice', therefore no more *cherry picking* your CPD! Don't miss the annual retention fee (ARF) deadline for your declarations and submissions.

Aside from standard CPD opportunities, there are a couple of other opportunities currently available to dental nurses which I will discuss below.

The British Fluoridation Society (BFS) has launched, in conjunction with the Borrow Foundation, a new career development opportunity for all dental professionals, and yes that includes us as dental nurses! If you are interested in the role that fluoride plays in supporting our oral health and how that extends into the arena of public health, and you are on a recognised training pathway in the UK, then this may be of interest to you.

There are two fellowships available which are named *The British Fluoridation Society*

Career Development Fellowship. They are funded Fellowships and will be delivered in the next three years. Dr Ray Lowry, BFS secretary stated: 'Our new career fellowships are designed to provide a greater academic underpinning for fluoridation as an effective and safe dental health intervention'.

The BFS is seeking applications from candidates and anticipate successful candidates will be second-year academics on a recognised training pathway in the UK. The closing date for the first Fellowship is 31 August 2022. The application process can be accessed via the BFS website: <https://bfsweb.org/career-development/>.

If a Fellowship is not on your PDP, then how about becoming an oral health practitioner?

The Oral Health Practitioner Apprenticeship was identified as a potential Level 4 qualification for dental nurses, in Health Education England's Advancing Dental Care Review Report issued last year.

Oral health practitioners (OHPs) have a high degree of autonomy and responsibility as they work directly with patients to the direction of a dentist. OHPs perform a range

of oral health preventative procedures and complement other roles in the dental team. The role is viewed as a level in between a dental nurse and a dental hygienist/therapist and may include procedures such as: applying fluoride varnish, taking impressions, taking clinical photographs, recording plaque indices and debris scores and carry out toothbrushing in the patient's mouth. The role may take you into the community or hospital settings to deliver oral health interventions together with measuring the holistic health of individuals you are caring for eg checking for diabetes, taking blood or blood pressure.

For more information visit: <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/oral-health-practitioner-v1-0>.

There are, of course, plenty of other opportunities available to dental nurses therefore if you need any help or advice, BADN, the UK's professional association for dental nurses, are always happy to assist you.

To get in touch please contact us at enquiries@BADN.org.uk or call 01253 338366.

GDC CALLS FOR DCPs TO CHECK CPD RECORDS

The annual renewal period for dental care professionals (DCPs) opened on 13 June with the General Dental Council (GDC) calling for professionals to check their CPD record to make sure they've completed enough hours to meet the minimum requirements for ongoing registration.

In addition to paying the annual retention fee (ARF) and making their indemnity statement by 31 July, professionals need to make sure they make a compliant CPD statement on time, including having completed at least ten hours of CPD over the last two years. With more than 3,000 DCPs falling foul of at least one of the CPD rules last year, the regulator is keen to highlight the requirements.

There are three steps to completing annual renewal. For DCPs these are:

- Pay the ARF by 31 July
- Make an indemnity statement by 31 July
- Complete the required amount of CPD by 31 July and go on to make an annual or end of cycle CPD statement by 28 August.

GDC Chief Operating Officer, Gurrinder Soomal, said: 'The vast majority of dental care professionals complete all aspects of their registration renewal every year without any complications. But last year, more than 3,000 did not meet the requirements for CPD for reasons unrelated to COVID-19.'

'Keeping up with professional development is an essential part of being a healthcare professional but there are also immediate practical impacts of not making a compliant CPD statement for the individual and their dental team, as non-compliance

can interrupt their ability to practise. It takes just a few minutes to check your CPD record to make sure you have done enough – and if you find out now that you need to do more, you have enough time to put it right before the end of July.'

The GDC is also reminding DCPs of the need to meet minimum CPD requirements following two years of flexibility – supporting those who may have found it difficult to access CPD during the pandemic.

The GDC provides more information about annual renewal and CPD on its website: <https://www.gdc-uk.org/registration/annual-renewal-and-fees>.

BDJ Team offers DCPs ten free hours of CPD each year and the 2021 hours are also still available. Visit <https://go.nature.com/3QT7uUg>.