Book reviews

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REVIEWS

FINANCE FOR DENTISTS: THE ESSENTIAL HANDBOOK

P. Kendall
UK: Radcliffe
price £31.99; pp 260
ISBN 9781846193590

This book is aimed primarily at dentists or orthodontists currently working in practice or who are planning to start up a practice. It intends to provide dentists with sufficient knowledge to play an active role in their own finances. Readers will gain further knowledge in accounting, taxing and pensions, along with an insight into the level of knowledge they would expect to receive from specialist financial advisers. The main goal of the book is to increase the profit and tax savings made by each dentist working within a practice setting.

The book covers various topics including an overview of the current dental profession and how certain changes will affect dentists and patients in the forthcoming years. There is an insight into the average dentist's set of accounts, along with preparing budgets. Included are comparisons of the NHS contracts across the UK and the income of an NHS practice compared with that of a private one. The book also deals with the issues concerned with buying or selling a practice and looks at the options available when employing associates, technicians and hygienists. It includes an explanation of the UK tax system and how it affects dentists, along with details of tax saving measures.

The information provided is well laid out in clear and concise chapters,

although it could have benefited from more diagrams and worked through examples of a dentist's set of accounts. I found the book to be most informative, covering a range of different topics in an interesting way that I feel most books would have struggled to do, given the topic. It was quite a challenging read, with many complex topics, but the book managed to explain things clearly.

I felt that the book met the aims of its readers well, encouraging them to think about all the financial issues that affect a dental practice on a daily basis. I would definitely recommend this read to any colleagues starting work within a dental practice setting or considering buying a practice. It helps make you aware of and up to date with any financial complications that can affect your earnings, therefore helping to increase your profits. An intense but very educational read.

O. Morgan

DENTAL TEAM COMPANION

M. Slater
UK: Quintessence
price £28.00; pp 184
ISBN 9781850971214

This Quintessentials publication is a short book similar to others in the Quintessentials range and is a useful aid to those working in dental practice. Aimed at all members of the dental team, this book provides information for those looking to create a modern day working environment or simply update their practice. With dentistry and dental practice constantly evolving, particularly

over the last two decades, the onus is very much on creating a 'team'.

The book places a strong emphasis on a patient centred approach, with holistic care involving a range of dental care professionals. The first five chapters outline how this has altered the way we work. Changing society and demographics have altered the face of dentistry with greater patient expectations. Interaction with all team members is paramount in helping manage the care of today's patient. Within these chapters there is a useful summary on how to manage patient complaints in a positive manner.

The middle chapters of the book concentrate on the workplace and how to enhance the working environment. Personal safety, including universal cross infection control and how to best avoid potential hazards, is summarised. This follows an outline on team roles, responsibilities and behaviour in the functionality and efficiency of the practice as a whole. The following chapters discuss stress and the handling of disputes in the workplace.

The final four chapters start with professionalism for all members of the team. Also discussed here are confidentiality, consent and keeping records, which are increasingly important subjects in healthcare. The book finishes with the subject of continuing professional development, which is a requirement for all General Dental Council registrants.

All members of the dental team have a responsibility to help maintain patient care, the focus of which has altered with changing society over recent years. This Quintessentials book is ideal to help all members of the dental team to understand their respective roles.

A. M. Shafi