

DENTISTS SOUGHT FOR RARE JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

For the first time in over a decade, dentists are being sought by the Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) to hear tribunal cases relating to dentistry.

Fewer than ten people have ever held one of these positions and the JAC is running a selection exercise from 16 June onwards to find five new dentists to take on these roles.

Applicants need to be registered with the General Dental Council (GDC) and ideally have experience of being an NHS dentist. The posts offer variety, career development and the opportunity to help dentists uphold the standards of their profession.

Successful candidates will be involved in appeals against decisions of primary care trusts, and appeals concerning rulings of the new Care Quality Commission. Dentists are 'specialist members' within the tribunal and their responsibilities include absorbing key facts and documents beforehand, asking questions in the hearings and contributing to decisions alongside a judge and a lay member. They need to be able to understand and explain to other tribunal members the NHS system and any technical aspects of working practices raised in the evidence.

Successful applicants would be expected to hear cases for approximately ten days per year.

This is a small jurisdiction and it is unlikely that further vacancies will arise in the foreseeable future. Application materials are available to download from the JAC website and applications close at noon on 7 July 2011: www.jac.judiciary.gov.uk. Successful applicants will be appointed for a renewable period of five years and training is provided.

NEW RESOURCE WILL AID PATIENT TOOTHPASTE CHOICE

Dental professionals caring for patients with adverse effects caused by their toothpaste will find it easier to recommend a suitable alternative using a new online resource.

The UK Medicines Information Service has produced a document listing toothpastes widely available in the UK and the excipients they contain. Toothpastes contain a large number of excipients including fluoride, abrasives, detergents, binding agents, humectants, preservatives, colouring agents, antiseptics and flavourings. Some of these excipients, most commonly flavourings, cause adverse oral reactions such as cheilitis (due to allergic or irritant contact dermatitis), peri-oral eczema, stomatitis, lichenoid reactions, burning mouth syndrome, loss of taste, and systemic adverse effects such as anaphylaxis and rhinitis. Tartar-con-

trol toothpastes containing pyrophosphates can be a particular problem as they contain higher concentrations of flavourings and detergents.

For patients who experience adverse effects thought to be due to their toothpaste, changing to another product that does not contain the suspected excipient can completely resolve symptoms within a few weeks or months.

'The document will be updated every two years and is freely available on the NHS Evidence and UK Medicines Information website,' explained Joanne McEntee, Medicines Information Pharmacist at the North West Regional Medicines Information Centre in Liverpool.

To go straight to the document, visit www.nelm.nhs.uk/en/NeLM-Area/Evidence/Medicines-Q--A/What-are-the-excipients-in-toothpastes/



EIGHT HUNDRED COMPLETE DIPLOMA IN POSTGRADUATE DENTAL STUDIES

In May Bristol University awarded 50 dentists with their Diplomas in Postgraduate Dental Studies, bringing the number of graduands to over 800 in the past 17 years and making the diploma

the most popular postgraduate programme in the UK.

The Diploma in Postgraduate Dental Studies is a distance learning course for which there is a choice of 13 units such

as periodontology, dental care for older people and business management skills. Students must complete three units successfully within five years to achieve the Diploma.