

The BDJ News section accepts items that include general news, latest research and diary events that interest our readers. Press releases or articles may be edited, and should include a colour photograph if possible.

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## DENTAL CLINIC IN BILLINGHAM ANNOUNCES GENERAL ANAESTHETIC SERVICE

Queensway Dental Clinic in Billingham has partnered with the University Hospital of Hartlepool to provide a general anaesthetic service for patients who have a severe phobia, for which other methods are inappropriate. The service is offered only to suitable adults on a private basis.

Managing Partner, Dr Paul Averley, Queensway Dental Clinic, said: 'There are a small number of people whose phobia of the dentist is so severe that they haven't attended check-ups nor had their dental issues attended to for many years, sometimes even decades, resulting in substantial oral health issues. It is for these patients for which all other pain and anxiety control methods have been exhausted, that we have

introduced this general anaesthetic service.'

Private adult patients wanting to undergo dental treatment with the support of general anaesthetic will attend an initial assessment at Queensway Dental Clinic, where Dr Averley will ensure that all patients who are to be put forward for a general anaesthetic have genuine oral health needs and severe anxiety issues which cannot be met using other methods, such as conscious sedation. This rigorous patient assessment will weigh up the risks with the benefits, working closely with the patient to help them make a balanced decision for the overall good of their oral health, ensuring that they understand risks which may be involved with undergoing a general anaesthetic.

If the patient is deemed suitable they will have an appointment made for them at the University Hospital of Hartlepool where an experienced team from Queensway comprising a lead dentist, anaesthetist and nurse will work with the hospital's staff to provide treatment and after care.

Queensway is also happy to work with fellow practitioners on a referral basis. [www.queensway.co.uk](http://www.queensway.co.uk)



Dr Paul Averley

## EVENTS SLICE THROUGH SHARPS SAFETY

This month NHS Supply Chain has been running a series of national events to help NHS Trusts prepare for the introduction of forthcoming legislation surrounding clinical sharps safety.

The events focus on raising awareness of EU Directive 2010/32/EU and the support available from NHS Supply Chain to help trusts implement changes to their clinical processes. Coming into force on 11 May, the Directive requires all trusts to have carried out a risk assessment of the potential for exposure to blood-borne infections by clinical staff and to have prepared an

action plan for implementing improvements to processes and procedures that eliminate or reduce risk.

'The new Directive is a major step forward for improving health and safety amongst healthcare staff,' said Chris Littlejohn, Clinical Lead at NHS Supply Chain. 'NHS Supply Chain can work with trusts to review their current position, ensuring a tailored approach for a smooth transition.'

[www.hse.gov.uk/healthservices/needlesticks/eu-directive.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/healthservices/needlesticks/eu-directive.htm)

## YOUNG DENTISTS GATHER IN LONDON

Over 240 young dentists attended the 8th Young Dentist Conference at the Royal College of Physicians in London on 9 February 2013. The expert panel of speakers included Ian Dunn, Teaching Lead in Periodontics at Liverpool University, and Nick Lewis, a consultant in restorative dentistry at the Eastman Dental Hospital.

The Young Dentist Conference is an annual event organised by Dental Protection, the British Dental Association (BDA) and the *British Dental Journal*. The organisers wish to thank the exhibitors for their continued support.