

unintended harm in dental settings. Agenda setting studies of the kind that we have undertaken are paramount for laying firm foundations from which the field can grow.

Our proposed list of never events is a starting point for setting research priorities to support production of a robust evidence base for dentistry, which we hope will be translated into action through effective resource allocation, policymaking, and evaluation of preventive strategies.

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## Technology in dental care

### Oral health by mobile phone

Sir, we read with interest the letter by Dr Stevens on children's oral health (*BDJ* **225**: 96) in particular in relation to parents and their children in many developing and underdeveloped countries through mobile apps for oral hygiene and oral health

information from dentists and oral health professionals.

In developing countries like India, large numbers of infants and children living in rural areas and also in urban areas (in lower socioeconomic groups) have no access to dental care. Oral health is often neglected and so prevention and public health promotion programmes can be effective in preventing dental caries and gingivitis in children under five years of age.<sup>1</sup>

At present mobile phones are used by the majority of people, in lower socio-economic groups also, even in rural areas and as suggested by Dr Stevens, mobile apps can be of great help in promoting oral health where dentists are not readily available.

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