

HAVE YOUR SAY ON OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS

The National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Dental Nursing and Dental Technology are being reviewed and are available for consultation until 16 March 2012.

These NOS are being reviewed alongside the General Dental Council (GDC) review of the learning outcomes required for registration for dental nurses and dental technicians. The review of the NOS is necessary to ensure that they are fit for purpose for use within qualifications that may lead to registration with the GDC.

NOS are divided into sections and define what a competent person should know and be able to do when they carry out a particular work activity. They are used to underpin future learning and development including qualifications development and a range of workforce development activities. The statements within a NOS should be

broad enough to apply across the UK and within every setting that the function is performed.

The consultation invites comments on each section of any NOS that is relevant to your work, keeping in mind whether it would apply to all dental nurses/technicians; whether all of the knowledge contained within each NOS is essential for carrying out this function; whether the performance criteria are correct; and whether anything is missing from any section.

Visit the Skills for Health website at www.skillsforhealth.org.uk.



CRACK DOWN ON ILLEGAL DENTURISTS

A campaign has been launched to crack down on illegal dentistry across the UK.

The British Association of Clinical Dental Technology (BACDT) has created a website which allows consumers to find a clinical dental technician (CDT) who is registered with the General Dental Council.

Unless a CDT is registered with the General Dental Council (GDC), they are not permitted to provide dentures directly to the public. However, there is a rising number of cases of dental technicians – as opposed to CDTs – breaching the GDC's regulations. Dental technicians are not registered to provide dentures to consumers or work independently in a clinic.

'The BACDT has become increasingly concerned about the rise in illegal dentistry and the website we have launched is aimed at helping to stamp out the problem,' said Barrie Semp, a member of the BACDT board and owner of a leading denture clinic. 'Only properly registered CDTs are able to consult patients and provide members of the public with dentures. Dental technicians are usually based in dental laboratories or, with further training, permitted to assist CDTs or dentists.'

Anyone considering using the services of a clinical dental technician should visit the BACDT's website – www.dentureprofessionals.org – and can also verify their choice of CDT by visiting the GDC's website at www.gdc-uk.org.

NICKY AND SUE LAUNCH LECTURE SERIES

Nicky Gough and Sue Bagnall, BSc graduates in Primary Dental Care, are branching out from their online continuing professional development (CPD) website to run a series of lectures for all dental care professionals (DCPs). Initial dates are booked for Birmingham (12 May), Worthing (30 June) and Kent (21 July) and will provide five hours of core verifiable CPD for only £39 (including tea/coffee and a light lunch).

Nicky told *Vital*: 'this is an exciting new venture for us. We have decided to branch out so that we can cater for the needs of DCPs who prefer to complete their CPD by attending a traditional lecture.' For more information on dates and booking please see the courses page on www.cpd4dentalnurses.co.uk or email info@cpd4dentalnurses.co.uk.

DRUG RECOMMENDATIONS PUBLISHED BY BDA

The British Dental Association (BDA) has published *Prescribing and medicines management* which can be downloaded from the BDA website (with a member log-in).

The document outlines the rules and regulations for prescription of controlled drugs, their classifications and the responsibilities for their use, based on advice from the British National Formulary and the UK Medicines Information Service. It also details patient groups to which prescribers may need to give special consideration and how to report adverse reactions. Other topics include prescription writing and *Standard operating procedures* for controlled drugs.

The guidance covers how practices can set up their own Patient Group Direction (PGD) arrangements. These arrangements in dental practice allow the sale, supply or administration of named medicines in an unidentified clinical situation by dental hygienists or therapists. Medicines legislation was amended in June 2010 to allow them to sell or supply any Pharmacy Medicine or Prescription Only Medicine provided there is a signed written agreement between a dentist, pharmacist and a representative of an appropriate healthcare organisation. This only applies for NHS patients. This legislation enables the sale or supply of prescription-only fluoride supplements and toothpastes containing 2,800 and 5,000 ppm fluoride. Other medicines can be included in a PGD if the hygienist or therapist is assessed as competent in their use.

Any practice that orders, supplies and stores controlled drugs on the premises is required to produce *Standard operating procedures* that show the pathway of the drug from its acquisition, through its use, to its disposal. www.bda.org/prescribing

