

RECOMMEND BOILED EGG AND SOLDIERS

Oral health charity the British Dental Health Foundation (BDHF) believes that breakfast is becoming the unhealthiest meal of the day.

Despite expert advice that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, research group Which? has discovered that 12 out of 14 popular brands of cereal contain worryingly high levels of sugar. All of the cereals aimed at children, except Rise Krispies, were high in sugar, with the worst perpetrator being Kellogg's Frosties. Many people also misjudge the amount of sugar in some fruit juices, particularly those perceived as healthy – most notably pomegranate and pure apple juice.

Chocolate spread sales have now overtaken marmalade, with some analysts suggesting busy parents looking to satisfy fussy eaters as a possible reason behind the boom.

Around one in three children now start primary school with signs of tooth decay.

'It would help enormously if parents could encourage children to move away from breakfast cereals loaded with sugars and introduce them to healthier alternatives such as porridge or boiled egg with wholemeal bread,' said Dr Nigel Carter, Chief Executive of the BDHF.



'MASSIVE BLACK HOLE' IN MANAGER EDUCATION

The Campaign for Administrative Standards and Professional Education for Receptionists and Practice Managers (CASPER) is calling for support.

In a statement from Glenys Bridges and Jane Armitage, CASPER says that 'when it comes to the non-clinical aspects of dental care there is a massive black hole in terms of training and ongoing development requirements'.

The statement describes dentistry's progress from the Dentist Act 1921 to the past ten years when the curricular framework was introduced to enable members of the dental team to gain registrable qualifications and increase the scope of their contribution to patient care. It says that to consistently achieve an excellent dental experience for patients in the UK, a range of quality management skills are required, such as planning services, auditing performance, creating, implementing and evaluating SMART objectives and gathering feedback on clinical and non-clinical aspects of care.

'Without formal education these skills will be absent from dental teams' skill sets, therefore patients' experiences will suffer.

CASPER has gathered high profile dental professionals who believe that qualifications for practice managers and receptionists are the next logical step in the progression of the dental profession and are urging the GDC and CQC to formalise a non-clinical curricular framework.

CASPER invites individuals who support their campaign to email them at casper.campaign@gmail.com with their name and the following statement:

'I agree that the dental profession needs definitive non-clinical educational and CPD standards for dental managers and administrators.'

US REVIEWS DENTAL THERAPIST ROLE

According to a report released by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation in the USA, dental therapists can effectively expand access to dental care, especially for children, and the care that dental therapists provide is technically competent, safe and effective.

A review of the literature documenting care provided by dental therapists and clinical outcomes worldwide also showed that the public values the role of dental therapists and there is strong patient and parental support for their work.

The study reviewed more than 1,100 reports regarding dental therapists and their work in 54 countries ranging from the USA to the UK to Malaysia. Five of the top six countries on the Human Development Index employ dental therapists in their oral health workforce.

In the US, dental therapists practise in Alaska and Minnesota, but there is no movement in other states to use these providers to expand access to required dental care. The review of the literature comes at a time when the US is struggling to expand access to dental care, especially for children. Close to 50 million people in the US live in areas where they cannot gain easy access to a dentist and tooth decay is the number one chronic illness for American children.

The full report can be found at: www.wkkf.org/news/Articles/2012/04/Nash-report-is-evidence-that-dental-therapists-expand-access.aspx

