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LETTER

Mountain of regulation

I have just read *The double hit* (*Vital* summer 2012 page 5) and I couldn't agree more. I have been a dental nurse for the same practitioner for the past 12 years. I have noticed in recent years that my role has completely changed. I now have so much more responsibility and my time is taken up recording and box ticking along with all the usual chairside duties and HTM 01-05. I love my job but am feeling the pressure to comply with the mountain of regulations and in a single handed practice that falls to me alone; I have nobody to delegate tasks to in order to ease the burden. I find it stressful and it is slowly killing my love for the job. I am not employed by the NHS but a private individual so do not benefit from the set pay scales. I have not had a pay rise for two years and am finding it harder and harder to make ends meet. As a DCP I get paid the same as an entry level NHS nurse. I have the radiography qualification and am doing a foundation degree in dental nursing at a local university. Despite this I still haven't had a pay rise even with the additional burdens in the workplace. Sadly I have decided that once I get my degree I will move away from nursing; I'm tired of having to be

Losing too much

I think you will find that most dental nurses do not care enough about this 'evolution'. The alternatives are to make the situation a lot fairer pay wise and time wise. Working in busy practices is hard enough without the added pressure with nothing to gain from it. We are losing too much from registration and course fees as it is. Our job has never been a highly respected job and we do not feel we are paid well enough to take our jobs too seriously. Enough said I think!

Gael
Scotland



responsible for so much without the salary to reflect what I do. I will stay in dentistry as it's something I love but I feel nursing has become so bureaucratic that it's impossible to give the patients the time and service they deserve.

Kirsty
East Yorkshire

Kirsty wins Beverly Hills Formula goodies worth £100.



No incentive

Just wanted to congratulate Sharif Islam BDS on his excellent article concerning the extra duties being put upon dental nurses (*Vital* summer 2012 page 5). The workload expected from our nurses is ridiculous and as he states, with no financial incentive or compensation.

The next thing that we have to look forward to is payment of our registration fee to the GDC, yippeee!

Thanks for caring Sharif.

Jo Barclay
Dental Nurse Manager

A raw deal

Just a short note to say well done to Mr Sharif Islam for his views on the never ending workloads that dental nurses encounter throughout the day (*The double hit*, *Vital* summer 2012 page 5). I have been in dentistry all my working life (39 years to be precise) and I can honestly say I have never felt so disillusioned with the system as it now stands. I am sure many dental nurses would agree that they are unhappy, if put to the vote!

The measures put in place by the CQC for daily procedures to be carried out and logged have put approximately one hour on my working day (and no I don't get any extra for this). At the moment I think dental nurses are getting a very raw deal all round. A lot of nurses have to pay their own registration and course fees which hits the purse hard in these economic times. Oh God! My registration renewal has just dropped through the letter box. All I ask is for other dental nurses to voice their views and that the CQC and GDC take note: remember, dentists by law cannot work without us.

Val Fisher
Dental Nurse

Views from the spa

Having won tickets to Thermae Bath Spa in a competition in the spring 2011 edition of *Vital*, I was fortunate enough to spend the other Saturday with my friend using the vouchers. We had a wonderful day, and were extremely lucky that the sun was shining allowing us great views from the rooftop spa!

I always find it interesting to keep up to date with professional developments through reading magazines and journals and so it was a real bonus to hear I had won your competition. I look forward to reading the next edition!



Charlotte Butterfield
Dental Hygienist