

TWELVE PERCENT OF DCPs HAVE LOGGED NO CPD

The General Dental Council (GDC) has produced some posters for dental practices to use to remind dental care professionals (DCPs) of their continuing professional development (CPD) obligations.

With less than a year to go until the end of the first five-year cycle of CPD for more than 40,000 DCPs, the GDC is urging employers to ensure their dental team know exactly what's expected of them. This means they must complete 150 hours of CPD by 31 July 2013 or risk losing their GDC registration.

According to GDC figures in August, 12,700 (32%) of DCPs have logged all of their hours (including 50 hours of verifiable CPD); 4,600 (12%) have logged no hours; and dental technicians are the least likely to have logged any hours, with 23% having not yet declared any.

The 2013 deadline affects DCPs who registered with the GDC on or before 31 July 2008.

The GDC's service for logging CPD hours can be accessed at: www.egdc-uk.org. The posters can be accessed at: www.gdc-uk.org/Dentalprofessionals/CPD/Documents/CPD%20posters.pdf.

DENTAL NURSE REPRESENTS NHS AT OLYMPICS

Marianna Dadejova, Special Care Dental Nurse with the Special Care and Community Dental services, North East London NHS Foundation Trust (NELFT), was one of 10,000 talented volunteers taking part in the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Marianna, 29, played a nurse in the sequence representing Britain's National Health Service.

Marianna (pictured third from left) saw a notice in the *NELFT Weekly News* in October last year advertising an audition to be part of the NHS sequence in the ceremony, and decided to apply.

'I will proudly be representing the NHS with my dental nurse and oral health educator badge in my special Olympic nurse uniform,' said Marianna in an email to *Vital* on the eve of the big day.

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TORRINGTON EMBRACES NATIONAL SMILE MONTH

More than 2,500 organisations and groups from around the UK took part in this year's National Smile Month 2012, which ran from 20 May to 20 June.

The oral health team from Torrington Dental Practice in North Devon organised events both in-house for patients of the practice and externally. Dental hygienist Sabina Camber, oral health educator Lisa Morris and dental nurse Sarah Poole spent the day at The Big Sheep, a family attraction in North Devon, taking the practice mascot Colin the Crocodile with them. Armed with displays, balloons, stickers, free toothbrushes and a 'good food - bad food' board, the team chatted with members of

the public of all ages about the importance of good oral health.

Patients attending Torrington Dental Practice had the opportunity to win an electric toothbrush by answering three short questions about oral health and the answers were displayed in the waiting room. Patients were also asked to identify ten royal smiles in keeping with the Jubilee celebrations. For child patients there was a competition to win tickets to a local theme park.

The practice also invited local nursery schools to visit for a tour, a 'ride' in the dental chair and a chat about toothbrushing and diet. The tots were given information packs to take home which also contained a new toothbrush.

