

GDC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The GDC is urging DCPs to keep track of their CPD and to ensure they keep hold of any attendance certificates they have received. For CPD to be counted as verifiable you must get and keep a certificate and the activity must have concise educational aims and objectives, clear anticipated outcomes and quality controls (you should have the chance to give feedback).
- The GDC says that CPD, both verifiable and non-verifiable (general) can be found through the following sources: formal courses and lectures; in-house team training; study days; educational parts of professional meetings; peer review and clinical audit; distance learning; multimedia learning such as web-based learning and using a CD-ROM; staff training in the practice or laboratory; going to educational workshops and conferences; and reading journals and magazines.
- There is still time to have your say on the issue of direct access, that is, patients being able to see a member of the dental team such as a dental hygienist or dental therapist without seeing a dentist first. A literature review conducted by the GDC in April 2012 established that there was no evidence of significant issues of patient safety resulting from the clinical activity of DCPs, and that there was evidence that access to dental care improved as a result of direct access arrangements. The GDC have also conducted an online questionnaire to gather opinions on direct access which elicited 840 responses. To take part in the consultation visit www.gdc-uk.org before 31 December 2012. Consultations are also taking place on CPD for assurance of continuing fitness to practise and on the GDC's standards of conduct, performance and ethics.
- The GDC has produced a new fact sheet for patients to help them understand their dental professional's indemnity responsibilities. The new fact sheet guides patients through what they should do if something does go wrong. www.gdc-uk.org/Membersofpublic/Documents/Indemnity%20patient%20information%20FINAL%20August%202012.pdf.

DCPs FLOCK TO DENTAL SHOWCASE

Two thousand, three hundred and twenty-two dental nurses attended the British Dental Trade Association (BDTA) Dental Showcase held at ExCel London in October. According to visitor statistics, they were joined by 357 dental technicians, 594 practice managers, 481 hygienists and/or therapists, 187 dental receptionists and 34 clinical dental technicians (CDTs).

Visitors to Dental Showcase toured over 330 stands from a wide range of exhibitors and were able to top up their CPD hours.

Asma Chaudhri, a Trainee/Tutor/Assessor in Dental Nursing and member of *Vital's* reader panel who attended the event with colleagues, said that 'ExCel was easy to get to and it was a great way of finding new products on the market as there were so many informative stands.

'I attended talks from a dental equipment supplier and a talk on ergonomics, both of which were particularly helpful as I teach on these topics!'

Next year's BDTA Dental Showcase will be held at the NEC in Birmingham on 17-19 October 2013.



CHRISTMAS CHEER DURING A CRISIS



Crisis at Christmas are calling for specialist volunteers including dental nurses and dental hygienists to sign up to donate their services to help homeless people in London over the festive season.

The urgent call is for volunteers to work shifts from 9 am to 5.30 pm from 23 December through to 29 December 2012. Crisis, the national charity for single homeless people, asks that every volunteer signs up for a minimum of two shifts.

Past dental volunteer Mary and her husband Alan said that the experience had a profound effect on them both. 'Volunteering has been the most professionally and emotionally rewarding experience of my entire year,' said Mary.

Up to ten temporary centres will be set up in London as part of Crisis at Christmas. The centres will provide vital companionship and hot meals for homeless and vulnerably housed people as well as essential services like health checks, housing advice, training and education opportunities.

Online volunteer applications opened on 15 October – further information can be found at www.crisis.org.uk/pages/volunteer.html or by calling 0300 636 1000.