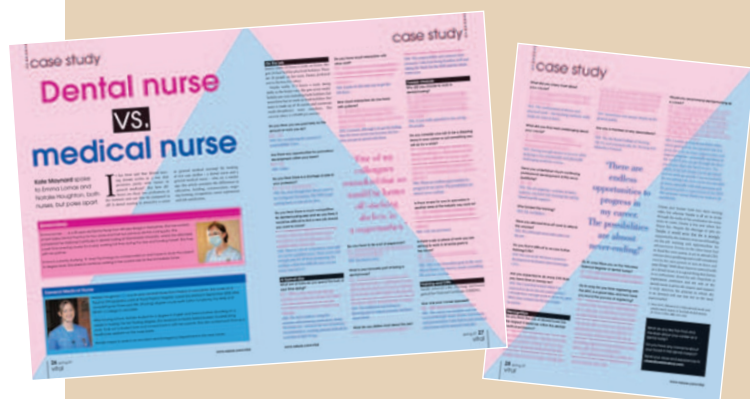


These pages offer you the chance to open topics for debate, discuss issues, or even offer advice to fellow readers. Send us your views on anything published in *Vital* or anything to do with working in the dental industry. We look forward to hearing from you.

Elevating dental nursing



The current registration regulations and future CPD requirements serve only to elevate dental nursing to where it should have always been: a profession, alongside our fellow health care professionals.

Lyndsay M. Lightfoot
RGN, RDN, Cert DPM, Dip HSM, Cert OHE
2nd Year Dental Hygiene and Therapy Student,
Leeds Dental Institute

Lyndsay wins Beverly Hills Formula dental whitening products (£100 RRP) courtesy of Beverly Hills.

I read with great interest your case study of dental vs. medical nursing (*Vital* spring 07 pages 26-28).

I qualified as a medical nurse in 1989, but after six years, became disillusioned with the lack of opportunities which I experienced during my time as a staff nurse, as well as bullying and nepotism.

I decided to change to dental nursing where I found I was able to work in 'real' nursing, spending time with the people who matter in nursing: the patients.

I have been given so much scope to develop my career in dentistry, much more so than in medical nursing, where I am sure I would have remained as a staff nurse had I not taken the initiative and moved into dentistry.

I am currently in my second year of a Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Therapy at Leeds Dental Institute which I find challenging but extremely rewarding and I am grateful to my dental colleagues who encouraged me to pursue further study.



Star Letter

Narrowing the gulf

I very much enjoyed reading the case study *Dental nurse vs. medical nurse* (*Vital* spring 07 pages 26-28). It really brought home how long overdue the formalisation of dental nursing as a career in the UK has been (within the context of dental care professionals).

Although both of the interviewees obviously got job satisfaction, their opportunities for progression and continuing professional

development appear to be in stark contrast.

Sadly, the dental nurse's partner who thought her job was to 'sit down and pass things' was (and still is), the view taken by many dental practitioners! Hopefully the gulf between dental nurses' job status and career opportunities will reduce in light of recent national policy and the establishment of more training programmes.

I am British-trained but now work in the academic side of Dental Public Health in the West Indies, and am really interested in issues related to the dental team. I have found many of the articles in *Vital* very useful and topical, even here in Trinidad!

Rahul Naidu
Lecturer Community Dentistry
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