

V-mail

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LETTER

Can you feel it?

I read with amusement the Last Word article *The drills are alive* (*Vital* winter 2008 page 64). It reminded me of a couple of musical mishaps that have occurred whilst I have been treating patients which I thought I would share with your readers.

We usually listen to Radio 2, which is a safe bet, but recently they played The Jacksons' 'Can you feel it?' during the administration of an inferior dental block injection. Worse still, a pocket chart had to be abandoned part way through charting when '5, 4, 3, 2, 1' came on the radio! Most confusing!

Both patients saw the funny side, but talk about bad timing!

Mrs Janet Holden,
Dental Hygienist/Dental Therapist



Janet wins Colgate goodies worth £100.



CPD in practice

I wonder if you could help please: it was mentioned in a recent V-mail (*Vital* autumn 2008 page 5) that staff meetings can be held in a way that allows them to comply with verifiable CPD requirements. I wonder if you could let me know what staff meetings would have to contain to comply with verifiable CPD regulations. I thought that staff meetings counted as non-verifiable CPD? I would appreciate any advice.

Sandra Chilton, by email

Lesley Derry at the British Dental Association responds: For staff meetings to meet verifiable

CPD requirements, the dental practice would have to set the aims and objectives of the meeting and stipulate the anticipated learning outcomes. At the end of the session, participants would need to give feedback on the subject covered etc and how far the learning objectives were met.

The practice would also need to issue a certificate indicating the subject discussed and the time spent on it. These certificates can be generated in-house.

Ed's note: More information can also be found on the GDC website (click on 'news, publications and events', then search in the list of documents for 'CPD for DCPs').

Great CPD

This is the first time I have carried out any CPD work through a magazine over the internet. It is a great way to gain verifiable CPD hours. Thanks for providing us with a way to gain extra valuable information in a magazine which is easy to read and understand and then gain a certificate within the comfort of your own home. This way of

gaining CPD hours fits in so well with my working and family life, as I do not have that much time to go off and do other courses as I work full time as a dental nurse and work long hours and do not have my own transport. So thanks for providing another way to gain knowledge and proof for CPD to help me meet the requirements of registration.

Karen Harbottle, by email

Therapy training

I have been a tutor on the Hygiene/Therapy course at the DCP School, Bristol Dental Hospital, since October 2005.

The *Vital* article *As dental professionals we should be looking at the whole person* (*Vital* winter 2008 pages 26-27) incorrectly states that we at Bristol run a standalone Hygiene course with an option to continue therapist training in an additional six months. The current situation is thus: we have run a combined 27 month Hygiene/Therapy course since January 2007, but we will, however, in the future be returning to a single diploma in Dental Hygiene.

We have never offered a six month Therapy course, neither will we be doing so; we have, however, run a year's full-time course for qualified hygienists to complete the restorative element that allows them to obtain the Diploma in Dental Therapy.

We will be running a two year part-time course for qualified hygienists who wish to train as dental therapists in the future.

I am not aware of any institution that has considered six months as sufficient time to complete the extensive theory and practical modules that lead to a Diploma in Dental Therapy.

Josephine Stockley,
Tutor/Clinical Dental Therapist

Vital would like to apologise for publishing inaccurate information regarding courses at the DCP School at Bristol Dental Hospital.



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Next issue's star letter writer will win Beverly Hills Formula products worth £100.

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