:registration

Access to Registration Training

The GDC expands its routes to registration for dental nurses.

Arveen Bajaj finds out more.

In September, the GDC announced that it is developing a new route to statutory registration for dental nurses. Its aim is to make registration more accessible to dental nurses who have some experience but not enough to meet the current requirements, without compromising patient protection.

Called Access to Registration Training (ART), it is an alternative route to registration during the two-year transitional period. When the new GDC PCD register opens there will be a two-year transitional period, during which time dental nurses will be able to register with the GDC if they have an approved qualification or four years' full-time experience in the past eight years, or the part-time equivalent. However, after this two-year period, all nurses will need an approved qualification before they can register with the GDC.

The Council found that after talking to dental nurses around the country at its PCD roadshows and on the telephone, many part-time nurses would not be able to meet the requirements of the experience-based route to registration because they currently don't

work enough days per week. To allow for this, the council is now developing the new route.

This new route is based on a minimum of two years' experience plus satisfactory proof of competence in these areas:

- infection control procedures
- CPR, medical emergencies and common dental emergencies
- health and safety
- ionising radiation
- working with dentists and patients (for example, assisting the dentist, communication and team working, ethics and confidentiality, dealing with patients and handling complaints)
- personal development plans, CPD and reflective learning skills.

The GDC says that further work on these proposals needs to be done to develop them and intends to look at them again at the Registration Committee meeting in November and then by the Council. The GDC intends to announce full details as soon as they are agreed. For more information visit www.gdc-uk.org