

# dentistry & eyecare communications update



Issue 20 November 2008

# dentistry

## Mouth Cancer Action Week

'Action speaks louder than words' is the message as Britain's leading oral health charity stages a November spotlight on a hidden killer disease.

Mouth Cancer Action Week takes place from November 16 to 22, as the campaign organizers, the British Dental Health Foundation, take a new, positive stance against the disease.

Mouth cancer kills more people than cervical and testicular cancer combines. Yet a fifth of the UK population remains unaware of mouth cancer.

*Continued on page 2*

## Tendering

The PCT Procurement Guide, published by DH in May 2008, supports NHS commissioners in deciding whether and how to procure health services through formal tendering and market-testing exercises. The Guide is available online at [www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_084778](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_084778).

The Guide sets out the wider context and general principles PCTs will be applying to all their health services contracting. We intend to supplement this shortly with a briefing note on the principles PCTs should follow in applying tendering to primary care dental services. This briefing note will be available to commissioners and contractors on the DH ([www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk))

and NHS Primary Care Contracting ([www.pcc.nhs.uk](http://www.pcc.nhs.uk)) sites.

The Procurement Guide sets a clear presumption that PCTs will go to tender where appropriate. The briefing note will focus on the factors that PCTs should take into account in making these decisions for dental procurement.

It will look at them in the context of the different situations that will arise, for example brand new services, contract variations and practice sales.

## NHS branding guidelines now available

Guidance on the use of the NHS Identity has been released this month for both PCTs and practitioners. This move is part of a wider strategy to

# dentistry

introduce the NHS Identity at all levels of primary care to increase visibility of, and to improve access to, the full range of NHS services.

The new guidance gives details on how and where to represent the NHS logo and descriptor line 'Providing NHS dentistry', including its use on everything from letterheads, appointment cards and practice leaflets to badges, uniforms and websites.

To read the guidance in full, see:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH\\_089102](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_089102)

In case of any queries, PCTs and practitioners can call the DH Branding helpline on 020 7972 5250/5261 or email the team on: [nhs.identity@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nhs.identity@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

## 2009 dental Statements of Financial Entitlements

DH is required to consult on the draft SFE document for April 2009 onwards. This has now been sent to the BDA, Conference of LDCs, the DPA and the BOS for comment and a final version will be published in January 2009. The most important element for practitioners is the recommendation that the starting contract value in April 2009 will remain the same contract value that was in

place at end of 2008-09 (updated to 2009-10).

## QUALITY & STANDARDS

### Decontamination in Dental Practice

The Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 01-05: Decontamination in Dental Practice has been produced following wide consultation and reflects our commitment to improving standards in dental practice. It sets out to reflect a reasonable and rational response to emerging evidence around the effectiveness of decontamination in primary care dental practices and the possibility of prion transmission through protein contamination of dental instruments.

Implementation of the new guidance will improve effectiveness of decontamination of dental instruments in dental practice with respect both to prions and conventional pathogens.

Emphasis is placed on staff training and development and the demonstration of competencies. The importance of procedures and protocols is stressed to ensure that decontamination is carried out to acceptable standards consistently and that this can be demonstrated. The

### *Continued from page 1*

Nearly 5,000 are diagnosed with mouth cancer annually. Mortality figures have remained above 1,500 deaths per year for a decade. Mouth cancer kills one person every five hours in the UK.

The Foundation's Blue Ribbon Badge campaign will continue to promote awareness by sending badges and collection boxes to dental practices, doctors's surgeries, pharmacies and health centres across the country. Badges will then be sold to the public,

raising funds and promoting the campaign.

Foundation chief executive Dr Nigel Carter BDS LDC (RCS) said: "Our slogan, 'if in doubt, get checked out' reinforces our call to action.

"Action can be as simple as visiting the dentist regularly to making lifestyle choices such as quitting smoking or drinking in moderation."

# dentistry

approach is constructed around a basis of progression, as regards local circumstances, including possible limitations with respect to premises.

A copy of this guidance will go out to all primary care practices with an NHS contract when the technical section has been completed. It will also be available from the DH website.

## **DH funding research to determine if dental treatment is a risk factor for vCJD**

DH has allocated funding to determine if dental treatment is a risk factor for vCJD. The first year research study will be undertaken at the National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Surveillance Unit (NCJDSU) in Edinburgh and the University of Glasgow Dental Hospital and School. The study has ethical approval and has established close liaison with the NHS, Chief Dental Officers, BDA, GDC and defence societies.

Statistical analysis and comparison will be undertaken to determine if there is a link between dental treatment and vCJD. Copies of the report will be available on NCJDSU website at [www.cjd.ed.ac.uk](http://www.cjd.ed.ac.uk)

## **Funding confirmed for IT systems in dental hospitals**

Dental hospitals across England are set to benefit from an injection of £11 million capital funding from NHS Connecting for Health (NHS CFH) which will enable them to invest in new IT systems.

The dental team at the Department of Health has been working with NHS CFH on this project and the Dental IT programme board, which is chaired by the Deputy Chief Dental Officer, Tony Jenner, approved the funding exercise. This initiative followed on from the development of a specification by NHS CFH working in close collaboration with

all the dental hospitals in England. This specification identified the specialist information technology requirements of the dental hospitals.

Trusts with dental hospitals in England were invited to submit bids by the end of August. Ten Trusts did so, and these were all successful in securing funding. The trusts will now have responsibility for progressing the procurement, development and deployment of IT systems locally.

## **Information Governance (IG) workshops for practitioners and PCTs**

Information Governance (IG) falls into the Connecting for Health remit and ensures necessary safeguards for, and appropriate use of, patient and personal information. Key areas are:

- information policy for health and social care
- IG standards for National Programme for IT systems
- development of guidance for NHS and partner organisations.

Training workshops are running now and will continue until May 2009. Approximately eight will run in each Strategic Health Authority area in England, with whole day workshops being held for PCT staff and half days for General Practice staff. Designed to ensure optimal compliance with IG assurance standards, each session will cover the following themes:

- Overview of the importance of Information Governance and the role of IG Leads.
- The National IG Agenda and the PCT's contribution.
- The National IG Agenda and the role of General Practice.
- Serious Untoward Incident reporting and legal obligations.
- The role and responsibility of the

# dentistry

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### NHS Dental Contract Reviews

This is a new briefing paper produced by NHS PCC briefing paper which sets out an example of a framework that PCTs can use or adapt locally to develop their approach and policy for undertaking major reviews of NHS dentistry contracts. To read the paper, go to: [www.pcc.nhs.uk/uploads/Dentistry/september\\_08/nhs\\_dental\\_contract\\_reviews\\_briefing\\_web\\_bm\\_150908.pdf](http://www.pcc.nhs.uk/uploads/Dentistry/september_08/nhs_dental_contract_reviews_briefing_web_bm_150908.pdf)

### NHS dental epidemiology programme – National Protocol published

Directions to PCTs on the Dental Public Health regulations will be published

shortly. In the meantime the National Protocol for the NHS dental epidemiology programme for England is available on the PCC website at: [www.pcc.nhs.uk/135](http://www.pcc.nhs.uk/135)

### Commission for Rural Communities Dental Show & Tell Event – November 24th to 25th

A Dental Show & Tell event is taking place on 24th & 25th November in North Devon, hosted by the Commission for Rural Communities. The objective of the event is to promote the sharing of innovative practice amongst PCTs who are interested in improving quality and access to NHS dental services in rural areas. For further details, see: [www.pcc.nhs.uk/events/all/911](http://www.pcc.nhs.uk/events/all/911).

*Continued from page 3*

PCT for IG.

- The IG assurance framework - interpretation and implementation of standards.
- IG Training Tool demo for the Administrator role.
- Accessing support and advice.

All training is designed for staff directly involved with the implementation of IG, ie: Practice Managers, Senior Managers or Directors responsible for IG, IG Leads, IG support staff, IG officers, Data Quality facilitators or PRIMIS+ facilitators.

Venue details, dates and booking facilities are all available on the CFH website under 'the Systems and services' menu - but you will need to log in to make a booking. If you do not already have a user account with NHS Connecting for Health, please register

on the site. Once logged in, enter the word "governance" into the search box, which is located under the calendar on the menu. This will bring up the complete list of available workshops.

For further information, see the Connecting for Health website:

<http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/infogov>

### CDO to join Medical Education England (MEE)

Barry Cockcroft has been invited to join a new strategic group that will oversee all medical education and training in England – Medical Education England. Formed following recommendations by Sir John Tooke's inquiry into Modernising Medical Careers (MMC), it was also endorsed by Lord Ara Darzi in the Darzi Next Stage Review. As well as co-ordinating a major restructure of

# dentistry

postgraduate training for doctors and other professions, MEE's core functions will include national level scrutiny of workforce planning and the commissioning of education and training by strategic health authorities.

## DSD NEWS

### Clinical Policy Advisers

The Clinical Policy Advisers (CPAs) have been appointed following an internal recruitment process among the clinical staff. They are now in post and have undergone an intensive induction programme which was completed at the end of September.

They have started to work with Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in their Strategic Health Authority areas. They work in small teams of 2 or 3 to provide consistent cover for each other and ensure continuity.

These are:-

- Giselle Taylor – London
- Steve Claydon – East of England
- David Billingham – West Midlands
- Dick Birkin – East Midlands
- Paul Crockford – North East
- Paul Taylor – North West
- David Brooke – Yorkshire and the Humber
- Paul Gray – South East Coast
- Mick Critchlow – South Central
- Jonathan Hindle – South West

The Clinical Policy Advisers are now working with SHAs and their PCTs to develop effective risk based processes which are integrated with other Dental Services Division (DSD) monitoring information. They act as the first point of contact for PCTs about clinical issues

and are the hub for the co-ordination of risk based information generated by DSD activities. This can therefore provide a more complete picture of clinical quality in relation to particular contracts and, where necessary, they can assist PCTs with specific issues of concern.

They are available to arrange an independent clinical examination to help dental practitioners with treatment planning or to assist in complaint resolution on request. This can be accessed using form D7 for dentist requests and D7a for PCT requests on the DSD website.

As the initial contact for clinical queries to the Dental Services Division, CPAs are working closely with the Customer Liaison Managers (CLMs) to support PCTs.

Each CPA in turn is staffing the DSD Clinical Helpdesk so that queries of a specifically clinical nature are directed to them from the DSD General Helpdesk on 01323 433550. This will ensure that advice on clinical issues is readily available to PCTs, dentists and their staff.

### Clinical Products

The review of the Dental Reference Service (DRS) supported a change in emphasis of clinical monitoring from assessment of record keeping and clinical governance towards monitoring focussed on clinical quality and effectiveness.

The aims are to monitor remotely where possible to reduce the disruption to practices caused by DRS visits as well as to target DRS resource more effectively on quality outcomes.

#### 1) Clinical record screening

The process of screening randomly selected clinical records by Dental Reference Officers continues but the majority of these are now carried out remotely. This reduces the time taken

# dentistry

at DRS practice visits, where there is a greater emphasis on patient examinations.

The remote record card review carried out by clinicians includes patient care issues, regulatory compliance and record keeping standards as well as validating the clinical data set entry submitted on the FP17 where appropriate. Reports on these checks will be generated from late autumn 2008.

## 2) Patient examinations

The examination of patients continues to be an essential aspect of clinical monitoring. During the autumn, patients for examination will be selected by the DSD using a random process from those who have recently received a course of treatment. Where patients are to be examined at DRS practice visits, practitioners will be asked to select patients from this randomly generated list. This will be introduced as a pilot whereby a sample of patients from each performer will be examined at their practice with their clinical notes and radiographs available to the Dental Reference Officer. It is planned that reports will be sent to practitioners with a summary report to the PCT.

## 3) Self Assessment Tool and Surgery Inspection

The Self Assessment Tool (SAT) has now been developed and has been converted into an electronic programme. A pilot of the SAT involving selected PCTs is planned and this will take place later in the autumn with a further pilot running in the spring 2009.

It is anticipated that the SAT will be offered to all PCTs and the results of the SAT will be used to determine a priority for the DRS surgery inspection process as well as facilitating the choice of a random selection of practices for inspection in any year. Validation of the information in the completed SAT will be

carried out as part of the inspection process.

It is expected that the composite data from the completed Self Assessments will be made available to the PCT in each area and, when supported by surgery inspections, this will give them information on the equipment and facilities available throughout the primary dental services in their area.

For further information:

Email: [drs@dpb.nhs.uk](mailto:drs@dpb.nhs.uk)

Helpdesk: 01323 433550

[www.dpb.nhs.uk](http://www.dpb.nhs.uk)

Please note: the NHSBSA Annual Review 2007/2008, containing an update from the Dental Services Division section, is now available. For more details, see: [www.dpb.nhs.uk](http://www.dpb.nhs.uk)

## REMINDER – FP17s

PCTs are reminded that completion of the new FP17 - including all elements of the new clinical data set - is mandatory for practitioners.

The overall picture is one of prompt and comprehensive adoption of the new requirement across the country, but with a number of dental providers apparently failing to provide any data. These providers are identified in the mid-year reports, so that their PCTs can investigate and take appropriate remedial action.

PCTs are also urged to encourage their practitioners to complete the section on ethnicity. This is not just a matter of political correctness: recent surveys indicate that there may be differing attitudes to dentistry among black and minority ethnic communities and so it will be helpful to commissioners to know whether patterns of service usage differ as well.

# eyecare

## First meeting of National Eye Care Strategy Group

At the launch of the UK vision strategy in April the Secretary of State recorded a message of support, in it he gave the Department's commitment to supporting the strategy through guidance on best practice. In order to take forward this commitment the Department has established an Eye Care Strategy Group, made up of representatives from the NHS, social care, professional and patient organisations.

The purpose of the group will be to identify, and if necessary develop, and disseminate guidance on best practice in relation to eye care services and support for people with vision problems. The first meeting of the group will take place on 28 November 2008.

## National Eye Week

The 14th annual awareness week, run by The Eyecare Trust will run from 24—30 November. The focus of the week will be on the importance of regular eye tests, healthy eyes and the benefits of good vision, culminating with the publication of the *State of the Nation's Eyes* report.

The report, which will provide a snapshot of the health of the nation's

eyes, is being compiled using data collected from a wide-reaching vision screening programme conducted in shopping malls, libraries, schools and sporting venues across the country.

These results will be analysed along with existing industry data to compile the most comprehensive review of eye health in the UK.

For more information, visit [www.eyecare.org.uk](http://www.eyecare.org.uk)

# about

## About these updates

NHS Primary Care Contracting (PCC) produces a detailed summary of recent and upcoming events, news and issues in primary care dentistry and eye care. These updates are produced about once a month, and published on the NHS PCC website. You can keep up to date with when these updates are issued, as well as on a whole range of primary care news and events, by subscribing to New@PCC, our weekly e-newsletter. To subscribe, visit the website at [www.pcc.nhs.uk](http://www.pcc.nhs.uk).

## Feedback

Any feedback or comments on past, current and proposed new publications and events are always welcome – as are ideas for case studies we can write up for the website. Please address

these to [julia.battersby@pcc.nhs.uk](mailto:julia.battersby@pcc.nhs.uk)

## About NHS Primary Care Contracting

NHS Primary Care Contracting has been providing valuable commissioning, contracting and communications support for SHAs, PCTs and the Department of Health since 2005.

NHS PCC operates on a subscription model, and all 152 PCTs are currently subscribers to our service.

We provide our subscribers with events, publications, toolkits and helpdesks, as well as tailored local support from our regional advisers and national expertise from our associates.

You'll find us on the web at [www.pcc.nhs.uk](http://www.pcc.nhs.uk) and at all the major NHS events and conferences throughout the year.