

CDO ... News

Dental Branch
Room D 4.18
Castle Buildings
Stormont
Belfast BT4 3SQ
028 9052 2710
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Foreword

Dear Colleague,

It has been all change in the Department since the last issue of CDO...News. Most significantly, Doreen Wilson retired as Chief Dental Officer on 1st September and I have been appointed as acting Chief Dental Officer in the interim. In the Referral Service, John McGrath retired from his RDO post in June. We wish Doreen and John a happy retirement. With a reduced staff complement, the Branch is certainly very busy.

The Review of Public Administration continues to take up quite a bit of our time, and we have set up working groups to look at how commissioning, dental public health and monitoring arrangements will look once the new Authority is established. It appears likely that the entire dental function at the Department will transfer to the Health and Social Services Authority in April 2008.

Progress continues on implementation of the recommendations of the Review of the Community Dental Service. The new Corporate Plan has been issued and work continues on the other strands. I want to thank these groups for the substantial progress made to date.

At the time of going to press, we await the publication of the Primary Dental Care Strategy and hope to engage with the Dental Practice Committee in November to open discussions on the new arrangements.

We hope to report more on this issue in the next CDO...News.

Regards,

Donncha O'Carolan
Acting Chief Dental Officer

October 2006

Community Dental Service Corporate Plan

The new CDS corporate plan was issued to the Dental Services Managers at the Trusts on 22 September and clearly outlines the role of the CDS within primary dental care.

The plan requires the CDS to focus their activity on caring for special needs groups such as patients with a learning disability, a compromising medical condition, a mental illness, a physical disability or institutional residents. Other areas of responsibility, such as general anaesthetics and preventive programmes, are also covered in the plan. Copies of the plan will be distributed to the CDS and can also be downloaded from our website at <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/pgroups/dental/dental.asp>

Development of the new plan commenced with a workshop on 16 March 2006 attended by members of the steering group and the six working groups. Since then, a small working group further developed the plan and, having been considered by the Review of the Community Dental Service Implementation Steering Group on two occasions, was finally signed off on 19 September 2006.

Work on the other five key areas: ICT; Staff Development and CPD; Research and Identification of Best Practice; Clinical Governance; Oral Health Promotion, is continuing and we will, of course, update you in further editions of CDO... News.

Fluoride Supplements

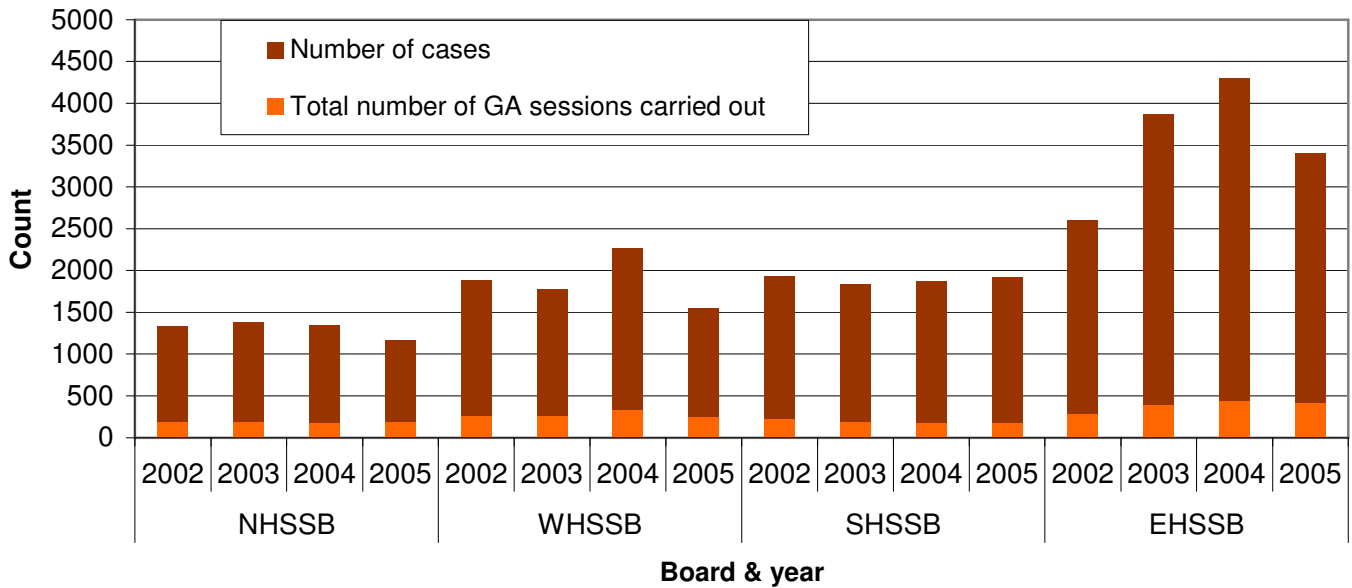
Duraphat 5000ppm toothpaste (sodium fluoride 1.1%) has been added to the Secretary of State's Dental Prescribing list and is included in the latest edition of the BNF (No.52).

This complements Duraphat 0.619% which is already on the dental list.

General Anaesthetic (GA) Figures

There has been a marked drop in the number of children requiring general anaesthetics for dental extractions over the past two years, which is very welcome news. GA returns for the years 2004 and 2005 show a reduction of circa 1600 children requiring GA in 2005 compared to 2004. The commensurate drop in the number of teeth extracted was 5368 while the average number of teeth extracted per child rose from 4.6 to 4.91 during this period, perhaps reflecting the policy adopted by most of the Trusts to extract all potential problem teeth in order to reduce repeat GA's on the same child. While it is unclear why there has been this drop off in GA cases, it is hoped that this downward trend will continue and Dental Branch will keep on monitoring the GA returns from the Trusts.

Data for GA extractions for the past four years in presented in the graphs below. Please refer to our Annual Report for more detail.



Child Protection Manuals

In July 2006, the Chief Dental Officer (DHSSPS) issued copies of *Child Protection and the Dental Team* to the Community Dental Service in Northern Ireland. This well produced manual is specifically designed for the dental team in order that they can recognize and safeguard vulnerable children from abuse and neglect. The manual was commissioned and funded by the Department of Health in England and, as such, does not reflect the local differences in child protection policy and procedures in Northern Ireland.

The Social Services Inspectorate DHSSPS has therefore produced a list of Regional Child Protection contacts to accompany the manual to highlight local differences with the rest of the UK.

NICE Guidance

The Minister, Paul Goggins, announced on the 26 June 2006 that the Department has established a formal link with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and that the Institute's guidance will now be applied as appropriate in Northern Ireland.

NICE produces guidance in three areas of Health:

- Health Technologies - guidance on the use of new and existing medicines, treatments, diagnostic techniques and procedures.
- Clinical Practice - guidance on the appropriate treatment and care of people with specific diseases and conditions.
- Public Health - guidance on the promotion of good health and the prevention of ill health.

NICE also produces 'interventional procedures guidance' which supports clinicians in the process of introducing new diagnostic and treatment procedures, and determines whether such procedures are safe enough and work well for routine use.

In the field of dentistry, NICE has produced guidance on the extraction of wisdom teeth, dental examinations and use of Healozone. In April 2006, the Chief Dental Officer (DHSSPS) issued a letter to the service advising that Ozone therapy was not to be used for the treatment of caries within the Health Service unless it is being used in a well designed clinical trial.

The Future of NIMDTA

A View from the Postgraduate Dental Dean

In May 1897, Mark Twain wrote to say that his cousin had been unwell for several weeks and from this it was reported that he, himself was severely ill - hence he went on to write, "The report of my death was an exaggeration". On a similar basis the headline in the last CDO News revealed that "NIMDTA is to be abolished" and while this did accurately report the press briefing by the Department following the statement from the Minister of Health; it may be a little premature.

The Minister did go on to say that the functions of NIMDTA - managing and supporting postgraduate Medical and Dental education in Northern Ireland are critical to the HPSS. As such these functions will transfer to the Health & Social Services Authority from 2008 with the status and professional profile of the organisations maintained. So, in effect, the dental department of NIMDTA will become part of the HSSA together with our Medical colleagues and Nursing equivalent (NIPEC).

A consultation period is currently underway and the final structural arrangements have yet to be finalised but the core functions will still need to be delivered.

It is my hope and intention that all the core functions, which are identified with NIMDTA, will still be recognisable in the foreseeable future. Maybe not under the banner of NIMDTA but.....to finish with another quote: 'A rose by any other name would smell as sweet'.

David Hussey, Postgraduate Dental Dean

Clinical Governance and Social Care Support Team

The Clinical Governance and Social Care Support Team (CGSCST) have produced a work plan to further develop clinical governance within dentistry. This work plan was produced following the outputs from the clinical governance in dentistry symposium which was held in September 2005. The CGSCST will be working with the profession to develop clinical governance arrangements such as:

- Production of a framework for clinical governance in primary care dentistry - work with the DHSSPS to develop this framework.
- A regional appraisal processes for the CDS - this will be undertaken in conjunction with the clinical governance working group from the Review of the CDS
- Development of practitioner profiles - this will be undertaken in conjunction with the Boards
- Clinical Audit & Peer Review - working with CAPRAP the CGSCST will look at ways of adding value to the existing processes
- Clinical governance training in the undergraduate curriculum - work with QUB to develop the curriculum

Retirement of Doreen Wilson

Doreen Wilson retired as Chief Dental Officer (CDO) for Northern Ireland on 1 September 2006. Doreen had served as CDO for over seven years. During that time she oversaw many significant policy developments in dentistry including the mid-term evaluation of the 1995 Oral Health Strategy, the Review of the Community Dental Service, two Dental Workforce Reviews, the 2004 Oral Health Strategy, review of the SDR, the Primary Dental Care Strategy, the PCD Workforce Review, report on Services for Patients with a Learning Disability and the Prison Dental Service Review.

Operationally, this policy work led to changes for the profession such as introduction of a preventive fissure sealant scheme into the SDR, practice allowance for health service general dental practitioners, funding for practice improvement scheme, enhanced capitation and continuing care fees. Other improvements came with free clinical and special waste collection services for dental practices, evidenced based fluoride toothpaste schemes being introduced across all community Trusts, extra funding for training courses at NIMDTA, introduction of the GPT scheme and expansion of the vocational training scheme. During her tenure, there we have had extra specialist registrar posts in the hospital dental service, an increase in the intake of students to the dental school and contracting out of the prison dental service.

Doreen graduated from Edinburgh in 1971 and immediately went into general practice in Edinburgh. In 1972 she went to Ethiopia to undertake voluntary work for a year. Following this, Doreen returned to Northern Ireland to work in general practice until 1979 when she became principal of her own practice in Donaghadee and happily worked there until 1995, when it was time for a change.

Doreen joined the Department in 1995 as a Referral Dental Officer while also supervising part-time in restorative dentistry at the School of Dentistry. From December 1998 Doreen has filled the role of Chief Dental Officer for Northern Ireland.

During her professional career, Doreen served on many committees and organizations associated with dentistry such as Chair of the NI BDA Council, President of NI BDA in 1997, member of BDA National Executive, founding member of Women in Dentistry and Chair of NI Women in Dentistry. She is a Fellow of the International College of Dentistry and as one of her proudest achievements was awarded Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 2005.

All the staff in the Department wish Doreen a very happy retirement but, knowing her strong work ethic, we're not convinced that her career in dentistry is over just yet!

New appointments...

- Donncha O'Carolan has been appointed as acting Chief Dental Officer
- Simon Reid has been appointed as a dental officer at the CSA
- David McCarter has been appointed as Adviser on General Dental Practice (continuing education) at NIMDTA

...and retirements

- John Mc Grath retired from the Referral Dental Service in June 2006
- John Farmer retired as adviser on General Dental Practice (continuing education) at NIMDTA in April 2006
- John Hardie retired as Dental Services Manager in Down Lisburn Trust in September 2006.

We thank them all for their services to the profession hope they enjoy a long, and happy retirement.

Dental Branch Annual Report

The Dental Branch 2005/06 Annual report has been completed.

In line with a Departmental advice there will be no hard copies published, but it can be downloaded from our website at:

<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/pgroups/dental/dental.asp>

Correspondence by e-mail to: dentalbranch@dhsspsni.gov.uk

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