

29 June 2004

Press Release

GDC agrees registration fees for 2005

The General Dental Council has agreed new registration fee levels for 2005. Subject to Privy Council approval, fees in 2005 will be:

	Dentists	Hygienists/therapists	Specialists (Oral Surgery & Orthodontics)
Retention	£396	£68	Not applicable
First registration	£33 per month or part thereof from the first month in which the entry is made until 31 December of that year	£10	£250
Temporary registration	£396	Not applicable	Not applicable
Restoration (other than after erasure at the direction of the Professional Conduct Committee)	£100	£10	Not applicable

This will mean a retention fee increase of £8 (2%) for dentists. Such an increase, though quite small, will help the Council deal with any unpredicted increases in expenditure, and reduce any future increase.

As GDC President Hew Mathewson explains:

“Healthcare regulation is evolving – and never more so than now. The outcome of the Shipman Inquiry, which is expected in the autumn, the work of the Council for the Regulation of Healthcare Professionals, plus the future requirements of revalidation, could all have major effects on the GDC’s activities, and outgoings. By taking a prudent approach now, the Council should be better prepared for any unforeseen costs in the future.”

The Council has also looked again at the issue of a discounted fee for over 65s, in light of the response to its withdrawal this year. After very careful thought however, the Council has confirmed its view that there should be no discounts for particular groups of registrants, including dentists on the Keeping in Touch with Dentistry Scheme (KITS) and dentists over 65. This will also apply to dentists who hold temporary registration with the Council who, from next year, will pay the same as those with full registration.

GDC President Hew Mathewson explains the Council’s reasoning:

“There was strong reaction from dentists over 65 to Council’s decision last year to withdraw the fee discount for over 65s. Many of them told us of their annoyance and disappointment, though some did write to us in support of the move. We have listened carefully to their views on the issue, but maintain that we cannot justify offering discounts to certain groups of registrants at the expense of others - many of whom are themselves part-time workers or have relatively modest earnings.

“Registration with the General Dental Council is a licence to practise dentistry, irrespective of employment status or age. Whether and how a dentist uses this licence, is a personal decision. As all dentists are subject to the same professional regulation, it is only fair that the licence fee, which pays for this, is the same for everyone.”

The GDC has also announced its plans to introduce a scheme to allow registrants to pay their fees by instalment. The Council hopes to have this new payment scheme in place by 2007: this will enable the Council to install a new IT system, and test it thoroughly, before introducing the new system.

Ends

For further information, please contact Katherine Vale on 020 7887 3861.

Notes to Editors:

1. Current registration fees are:

Category	Fee (£)
<i>Dentists</i>	
Annual retention fee	388
Annual retention fee for KITS members	135
First registration	See below
Restoration after erasure for non-payment	100 (plus £388 ARF)
Restoration after erasure by PCC	388
Temporary registration	142
<i>Dental hygienists and therapists</i>	
Annual retention fee	68
First registration	10
Restoration after erasure for non-payment	10 (plus £68 ARF)
Restoration after erasure by PCC	68
<i>Specialist List entries</i>	
Orthodontics - first listing	250
Oral Surgery - first listing	250

First registration fees - dentists

January: £384
 February: £352
 March: £320
 April: £288
 May: £256
 June: £224
 July: £192
 August: £160
 September: £128
 October: £96
 November: £64
 December: £32

2. Under current legislation, fee levels for dental hygienists and dental therapists have to be approved by both Houses of Parliament (whereas fees for dentists require Privy Council approval). As any fee increases would need to be approved by the autumn, and parliamentary time would need to be secured for this, the Council has decided not to seek a 2% increase (i.e. £1.36) for dental hygienists and dental therapists for 2005. It is likely that in the future, subject to legislative changes, the fee-setting process will be the same for all categories of registrant.

3. The Council is not yet in a position to set the registration fee levels for the new groups of professionals complementary to dentistry (PCDs) which are expected to start registering next year. However, the Council has confirmed that it is unlikely that the initial registration fees for these new groups will be significantly higher than the retention fees currently paid by hygienists and therapists. The Council hopes to announce the registration fees for PCDs in the winter.