

General Dental Council monthly newsletter, 21 December 2007

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LATEST NEWS

Dentists removed from Register for failing to comply with CPD requirements

19 dentists have been removed from the Register due to non-compliance with CPD requirements.

These dentists had been granted additional time to comply with the requirements but failed to provide evidence confirming this.

They are able to restore their name to the Register but need to complete and return an application for restoration to us. This will need to include evidence of 250 hours of completed CPD with at least 75 hours being verifiable in the five years prior to the date of their application.

Those dentists who have been removed from the Register should call the Registration Team on 020 7344 3740 for further information on how to apply for restoration.

For general information on CPD, including the new core subjects, please visit our website, www.gdc-uk.org, or email GDCregistration@gdc-uk.org. To request a copy of 'Continuing professional development for dentists' please email communications@gdc-uk.org.

GDC to review policy on listing of additional qualifications

At a public meeting on 6 December the GDC agreed in principle to abolish its current system for adding dental professionals' additional qualifications to its registers. We will be carrying out a consultation on the next steps before making any changes.

For dental professionals who already have additional qualifications listed on the registers there will be no change while the consultation takes place. Dental professionals won't be able to add any additional qualifications in the meantime.

We have been considering the benefit to patients of recording additional qualifications for some time. There were concerns that recognition of additional qualifications implied significant endorsement by the GDC. In addition the policy was inconsistent and unfair to many registrants including those waiting to have qualifications added to the register or dental care professionals for whom there is no formal recognition system.

Further information about the consultation will be made available on our website, www.gdc-uk.org.

GDC issues guidance on clinical trials

The GDC has issued guidance to all registrants associated with, undertaking or involved in clinical trials and research.

As set out in our *Standards for dental professionals* guidance, this involves:

- putting the patients' interests first;
- finding out about laws and regulations which may affect your work;
- finding out about current best practice;
- acting honestly and fairly; and
- making sure patients are able to claim compensation.

This means that it is your responsibility to be aware of any legislation relating to clinical trials and to seek approval from the local Ethics Committee where required. It is also important to check with your defence organisation before undertaking this kind of work.

Further information and advice is available via the 'Standards Guidance' on our website www.gdc-uk.org, or on the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's website www.mhra.gov.uk.

To read the guidance in full, please visit our [website](#).

Winter Gazette – out now

The winter 2007 - 2008 issue of the *Gazette* is now available. This issue features articles on topical issues such as tooth whitening and the latest news on continuing professional development for all members of the dental team. There are also dedicated pages for dental care professionals on compulsory registration.

Tooth whitening – an update

Following on from the Which? Investigation into beauty salons offering tooth whitening treatments, our President, Hew Mathewson has been asked to give a number of interviews to the media, reinforcing the GDC's view that the practice of tooth whitening by non dental professionals is illegal.

Most recently, Hew appeared on Sky News and Channel 5 News in an interview on the dangers of non dental professionals carrying out tooth whitening and what the GDC is doing to stop this happening in the future.

Further information on the Sky News investigation into tooth whitening can be found on their [website](#).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BSDHT Annual Conference

The GDC exhibited at the British Society of Dental Hygiene and Therapy Annual Conference on 16 and 17 November in Bournemouth. We spoke to over 100 dental hygienists and therapists at the event.

FITNESS TO PRACTISE UPDATE

Fitness to Practise Committees

At its meetings on 25 October, 6 November and 21 November 2007 the [Investigating Committee](#) considered 103 cases concerning 95 registrants. The outcomes are detailed below:

Outcome	Number
No further action required	24
Letter of advice issued	21
Deferred	11
Warning letter issued (published)	10
Referred to Professional Conduct Committee	14
Warning letter issued (unpublished)	10
Case adjourned - further information required	5
Letter of advice issued and third party advice issued	1
Referred to Professional Conduct Committee and third party advice issued	1
Referred to Professional Conduct Committee and Interim Orders Committee	4
Referred to Professional Conduct Committee and Interim Orders Committee and warning letter issued (unpublished)	1
Referred to Health Committee	1
Total	103

At its meeting on 6 November the [Preliminary Proceedings Committee](#) considered two cases concerning two registrants. The outcomes are detailed below:

Outcome	Number
Warning letter issued (unpublished)	2
Total	2

Hearings

The cases heard by the [Interim Orders Committee](#) between 22 October and 30 November 2007 were:

Name	Registration number	Outcome
MANBAJOOD, Mohammad Reza	77104	Interim conditions 18 months
FRAZAO ALVIM DE CASTRO, Oscar Miguel	77418	Interim suspension 18 months
OLOJUGBA, Oluwashe Olubunmi	48074	Interim Suspension 18 months
RASMUSSEN, Michael Egbert	59974	Conditions revoked and suspension imposed for remainder of the period of the original order
MISSANKOV, Alek Alexandrov	73681	No interim order imposed

BOHLER, Chris Ingolf	84082	Interim suspension for the remainder of the original 18 month period
KEEN, Barrington	47736	Interim suspension for the remainder of the original 18 month period

The cases heard by the [Professional Conduct Committee](#) between 22 October and 30 November 2007 were:

Name	Reg No.	Type of case	Outcome
ASHRAFI, Maryam	72775	Conduct Initial	Adjourned part-heard until 3 December 2007
FOROTAN FARD, Noushin*	78302	Conduct Initial	Fitness to practise impaired: suspended for 8 months (with review)
KALDOR SADIGHI, Meroe Miranda	84340	Conduct Initial	Serious professional misconduct: judgment postponed for 12 months
SOLLO, Alexei	39363	Conduct Resumed following postponed judgment for 12 months	Case concluded following postponed judgment
CARLESON, Joakim Anders*	79961	Conduct Initial	Fitness to practise impaired: erased with immediate suspension
SHIEKH, Mohammed Qusim*	67210	Conviction Initial	Adjourned before case opened. To resume on 31 January 2008
OKUNIEK, Peter Gunter	82652	Conduct Resumed following postponed judgment for 6 months	Adjourned part-heard for no longer than 3 months
WILKINSON, Alan Stuart*	3786 (Hygienist)	Conduct Initial	Not fitness to practise impaired: no case to answer
HUSSAIN, Faris Hazim	58546	Conduct Initial	Adjourned part-heard until April 2008

* These cases were heard under our new fitness to practise rules which came into force on 31 July 2006. All cases that were initiated before this date will be considered under the previous rules.

Appeal

On Friday 9 November 2007, Mr Mohammed Qusim SHIEKH (Registration number 67210) successfully appealed in the High Court against the interim suspension that had been imposed on him by the Interim Orders Committee on 21 November 2006. This interim suspension was regarding a different matter to that considered by the Professional Conduct Committee (see above).

FACTS AND FIGURES

Dental Care Professionals Register

Since the opening of the Dental Care Professionals (DCP) Register in July 2006 we have received applications from and registered the following from the new DCP groups. The numbers in brackets indicate the cumulative totals. Applications from dental nurses and technicians are currently taking approximately four weeks to process.

New DCP groups – applications received since opening of register

	Aug 06	Sep 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06	Jan 07	Feb 07	Mar 07	Apr 07
Dental nurse	211	366 (577)	626 (1,203)	570 (1,773)	552 (2,325)	866 (3,191)	717 (3,908)	776 (4,684)	658 (5,342)
Dental technician	30	32 (62)	46 (108)	57 (165)	47 (212)	85 (297)	59 (356)	46 (402)	49 (451)
Clinical dental technician	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	10 (10)	7 (17)	5 (22)
Total	241	398 (639)	672 (1,311)	627 (1,938)	599 (2,537)	951 (3,488)	786 (4,274)	829 (5,103)	712 (5,815)

	May 07	Jun 07	Jul 07	Aug 07	Sep 07	Oct 07	Nov 07
Dental nurse	778 (6,120)	560 (6,680)	1,134 (7,814)	941 (8,755)	1,049 (9,804)	709 (10,513)	1004 (11,517)
Dental technician	72 (523)	57 (580)	138 (718)	103 (821)	105 (926)	92 (1018)	114 (1,132)
Clinical dental technician	6 (28)	8 (36)	2 (38)	6 (44)	1 (45)	0 (45)	0 (45)
Total	856 (6,671)	625 (7,296)	1,274 (8,570)	1,050 (9,620)	1,155 (10,775)	801 (11,576)	(1,118) (12,694)

New DCP groups – numbers registered since opening of register

	Aug 06	Sep 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06	Jan 07	Feb 07	Mar 07	Apr 07
Dental nurse	17	117 (134)	170 (304)	224 (528)	240 (768)	400 (1,168)	571 (1,739)	722 (2,461)	786 (3,247)
Dental technician	8	16 (24)	20 (44)	20 (64)	17 (81)	46 (127)	49 (176)	64 (240)	65 (305)
Clinical dental technician	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	8 (8)	4 (12)
Total	25	133 (158)	190 (348)	244 (592)	257 (849)	446 (1,295)	620 (1,915)	794 (2,709)	855 (3,564)

New DCP groups – numbers registered since opening of register

	May 07	Jun 07	Jul 07	Aug 07	Sep 07	Oct 07	Nov 07
Dental nurse	795 (4,042)	1,138 (5,180)	985 (6,165)	507 (6,672)	1,212 (7,884)	1560 (9,444)	2,685 (12,129)
Dental technician	45 (350)	95 (445)	73 (518)	54 (572)	123 (695)	170 (865)	266 (1,131)
Clinical dental technician	7 (19)	7 (26)	4 (30)	10 (40)	3 (43)	9 (52)	4 (56)
Total	847 (4,411)	1,240 (5,651)	1,062 (6,713)	571 (7,284)	1,338 (8,622)	1,739 (10,361)	2,955 (13,316)

Other registrant applications

Since the beginning of 2007 we have received applications from and registered the following numbers from our other registrant groups, the numbers in brackets indicate the cumulative totals.

Other registrant groups – applications received in 2007

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct 07
Dentist	136	90 (226)	130 (356)	163 (519)	148 (667)	514 (1,181)	309 (1,490)	113 (1,603)	130 (1,733)	100 (1,833)
Dentist – temporary registration	99	33 (132)	14 (146)	12 (158)	20 (178)	26 (204)	100 (304)	21 (325)	6 (331)	13 (344)
Dental hygienist	20	10 (30)	4 (34)	31 (65)	26 (91)	81 (172)	20 (192)	19 (211)	1 (212)	0 (212)
Dental therapist	9	3 (12)	2 (14)	25 (39)	12 (51)	52 (103)	14 (117)	4 (121)	0 (121)	0 (121)
Dentist - Specialist	17	15 (32)	13 (45)	1 (46)	8 (54)	8 (62)	2 (64)	6 (70)	30 (100)	28 (128)
Total	281	151 (432)	163 (595)	232 (827)	214 (1,041)	681 (1,722)	445 (2,167)	163 (2,330)	167 (2,497)	141 (2,638)

	Nov 07
Dentist	88 (1,921)
Dentist – temporary registration	8 (352)
Dental hygienist	0 (212)
Dental therapist	0 (121)
Dentist - Specialist	9 (137)
Total	105 (2,743)

Other registrant groups – number registered in 2007

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct 07
Dentist	124	90 (214)	84 (298)	132 (430)	144 (574)	215 (789)	561 (1,350)	166 (1,516)	131 (1,647)	160 (1,807)
Dentist – temporary registration	37	132 (169)	20 (189)	9 (198)	25 (223)	5 (228)	119 (347)	18 (365)	13 (378)	14 (392)
Dental hygienist	55	1 (56)	4 (60)	25 (85)	11 (96)	35 (131)	86 (217)	20 (237)	8 (245)	8 (253)
Dental therapist	50	0 (50)	0 (50)	6 (56)	3 (59)	17 (76)	56 (132)	0 (132)	2 (134)	2 (136)
Dentist - Specialist	16	11 (27)	12 (39)	15 (54)	12 (66)	10 (76)	15 (91)	7 (98)	5 (103)	14 (117)
Total	282	234 (516)	120 (636)	187 (823)	195 (1,018)	282 (1,300)	837 (2,137)	211 (2,348)	159 (2,507)	198 (2,705)

	Nov 07
Dentist	73 (1,880)
Dentist – temporary registration	5 (397)
Dental hygienist	10 (263)
Dental therapist	3 (139)
Dentist - Specialist	18 (135)
Total	109 (2,814)

Assessed applications – number registered in 2007

Since the beginning of 2007 we have registered the following additional dental professionals following an assessment of their eligibility for full registration in the UK. Dental professionals who are EEA nationals, or entitled to be treated as such, without a qualification recognised for full registration in the UK, may be entitled to apply for an assessment.

Category	Number
Dentists	50
Dental care professionals	28

An update on the performance of the Dental Complaints Service

October saw the Dental Complaints Service (DCS) log 147 complaints, 17 more than in September. In November, the DCS logged 135 complaints, twelve less than the previous month. The average number of complaints logged since the launch of the DCS in May of last year continues to be just over 30 per week. Current status of complaints:

24 May 2006 – 7 December 2007	No. of complaints	Percentage (%)
Closed complaints	2,418	97.86%
Active complaints	53	2.14%
Total	2,471	100%

We have held two further complaints panel meetings since last reporting; the total number held since the launch of the DCS is now 36. In 21 of these meetings the panel decided there was a complaint to answer, and in 14 meetings they recommended no further action be taken in relation to the complaint; one meeting had to be adjourned. An update on the type and frequency of recommendations made by panels as a result of meetings is provided below. Panels can, and have, made more than one recommendation following a meeting.

Specific recommendations made concerning:	Frequency
Refund of fees	18
Complaints handling best practice	9
Issuing / discussing treatment plans and/or costs	6
Record keeping – detail / contemporaneous	5
Working with a third party present	2
Access to emergency care	2
Remedial treatment – financial contribution towards	1
Remedial treatment – work to be carried out	1

Two further training days were held for our volunteer complaints panellists on 13 November (London) and 30 November (Birmingham).

HAVE YOUR SAY

Call for ideas - Registration options for overseas (non-EEA) DCPs

In November, the GDC sought views from the public, registrants and others on how best to assess overseas DCPs for registration. We sent out a *Call for Ideas* to key stakeholders and posted the document on our website. The consultation ended on Friday 30 November.

We have received a variety of responses from a range of backgrounds and are grateful to these contributors.

In addition to the consultation, we are also keen to hear from overseas DCPs who may wish to register in the future. These DCPs should contact overseasdcp@gdc-uk.org.

Responding to external consultations

On 12 November, we submitted a response to the Scottish Government's consultation *Better Health, Better Care*. If you would like to see a copy of the

response, please contact Kristina Ireland at kkireland@gdc-uk.org or on 020 7009 2747.

Should provisional registration be introduced and what should it look like?

We are currently seeking views on proposals to introduce a period of provisional registration for dentists and dental care professionals joining the registers for the first time.

The consultation is directed at the public, dental professionals and others and will look at the following areas:

- Do you support the principle of provisional registration?
- Should provisional registration apply to all groups of dental professionals?
- How long should provisional registration be?
- Should the activities dental professionals undertake be restricted during provisional registration?
- What should happen if a dental professional does not meet the requirements of validation?
- In what ways do you think provisional registration could be delivered?

The consultation document is also available on the GDC website at www.gdc-uk.org. The closing date for responses is 20 March 2008.

EDUCATION UPDATE

Inspections

Inspections are taking place in December to the Dental Technology programme at Sheffield College and the Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Dental Hygiene at Newcastle. A full timetable of inspections for 2008 is currently being assembled.

Overseas Registration Examination (ORE)

Two major activities have dominated the exams team during October:

- the recruitment of the ORE Board; and
- a pilot of ORE Part 2.

Following the appointment of Prof Elizabeth Davenport as Chair of the ORE Board, a further recruitment drive has been launched for the roles of the dental and lay educationalist and the Chief External Examiners. The closing date for applications was 30 November and interviews are scheduled for December.

The Consortium, the syndicate responsible for supplying the second part of the ORE, ran a full pilot in preparation for the first ever sitting in January 2008. A report of the pilot will be supplied by *The Consortium* and published on the GDC website shortly.

Further information about the context and format of this part of the exam will soon be released to candidates.

International Qualifying Examination (IQE)

We have continued to run IQE Part B and C. The final sitting for IQE Part A is scheduled for early January 2008.

PRESS RELEASES

- [GDC explores registration options for overseas dental care professionals](#) 12 November
- [Dentists exceeding requirements of CPD](#) 13 November
- [DCPs qualifying soon – get a head start on registration](#) 19 November
- [GDC issues guidance on clinical trials](#) 4 December
- [GDC to review policy on listing of additional qualifications](#) 10 Dec

KEY EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Date	Event
5	Dental Complaints Service Advisory Board
6	Council meeting – London
13	Education Committee
14	Strategic Review Group
17	Scope of Practice Working Group