DTA Continuing Professional Development 2019 Position Statement

The DTA consider that the existing ECPD framework works relatively well.

The GDC ‘Recommended Topics’ although not compulsory provide our members with useful guidance. They also offer Dental Technologists a useful opportunity to undertake CPD with Dentists and other DCP groups, reinforcing the concept of the modern patient centric Dental Team.

The GDC ‘Development Outcomes’ also provide Dental Technologists with useful guidance when formulating their Personal Development Plan (PDP).

The combination of a ‘qualitative’ PDP and ‘quantitive’ log of hours provides a balanced compromise. It also allows DTA members to record and understand where they stand in relation to ECPD compliance. Although we appreciate the logic of changing ‘hours’ to ‘credits’ as the unit of measure.

The DTA provides high quality CPD to its members via The Technologist journal, Articulate newsletter and You Tube channel. This CPD is assessed interactively on the members’ section of the DTA website, where there is the opportunity to add reflection and log CPD. The DTA also provides members with an interactive PDP template.

The DTA are however concerned that there are some CPD providers that do not offer sufficient rigor and in our opinion are not compliant with the existing ECPD regulations. The GDC has set quality criteria for CPD providers but does not seem to monitor such providers this leaves registrants in a compromised position. The DTA seeks to highlight this to members and encourages all Dental Technologists to become members of their professional association to help safeguard their registration.

The DTA does not favour change for the sake of change, particularly given the relative newness of ECPD. The DTA is also concerned that CPD compliance must be affordable and accessible to its members. However, the DTA will always work with regulators and stakeholders to incrementally improve the quality of CPD and the professionalism of its Dental Technologist members and wider Dental Team.

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