‘A welcome development’ says Dental Protection

Dental Protection welcomes the announcement from the Department of Health that there will be a public consultation about the regulation of healthcare workers with HIV that currently prevents some members of the dental profession from working normally. The existing regulations are more than two decades old and do not take into account the pharmaceutical advances in controlling the infectivity of the retrovirus. Nor do they recognise the current standards of audited infection control that all dental surgeries are expected to achieve.

Kevin Lewis, Dental Director said; “Dental Protection has always championed the interests of members of the dental profession who are seen to be unfairly treated. The introduction of effective antiretroviral therapy in the 1990s combined with the absence of any proven transmission in the dental setting makes it totally unfair to continue to force members of the dental team to quit their chosen profession. Apart from the huge financial and personal consequences, these skilled clinicians are removed from the workforce that currently struggles to provide sufficient access to dental care for the growing UK population.

The changes to the regulations proposed by the Department of Health are a logical step that restores fairness for these members of the dental profession as well as safely managing the dental needs of the population.

Over the last ten years, Dental Protection has led the way in this debate and the organisation will be actively contributing to the consultation process in order to protect the interests of its members and of the wider dental profession.”

Ends

Media contact

David Croser
Dental Protection
33 Cavendish Square
London W1G 0PS

T: 020 7399 1339   E: david.croser@mps.org.uk.
Notes for Editors

1. Dental Protection Limited (DPL) is an autonomous but wholly owned subsidiary of the Medical Protection Society (MPS), the world’s leading professional indemnity organisation for doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals. Dental Protection has over 57,000 dental members in 70 countries around the globe and it is the only UK based protection organisation to have this international scope. In the UK, 70% of dentists are members.

2. MPS is not an insurance company. All benefits of membership are discretionary as set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

3. Web address www.dentalprotection.org