Clinical governance programme success

Learning resources provider Smile-on has come up with a new programme to help dental professionals comply with the Healthcare Commission’s standards on clinical governance.

Smile-on’s Clinical Governance programme has been designed to correspond with the standards identified in Standards for Better Health (Department of Health, 2004).

The combination of an introductory seminar, comprehensive workbook and 90-minute CD-ROM and/or online course, enables dental practices to comply with the clinical governance agenda.

The programme aims to help dental teams improve patient experience and satisfaction, reduce the scope for error, promote evidence-based care, encourage the involvement of the whole team and facilitate compliance with industry requirements.

A spokesperson for Smile-on said: ‘We are pleased that Smile-on’s Clinical Governance Performance Management tool, practices can upload their progress so that primary care trusts can quickly and easily identify what has been achieved, and what remains to be done.’

For more information please call Smile-on on 0207 408 0080 or email info@smile-on.com

Polyclinics open up for business

The first in-store supermarket ‘polyclinic’ complete with a dentist, GP pharmacist and podiatrist has opened.

Sainsbury’s in Heaton Park in Manchester has now launched the first polyclinic offering both private and NHS healthcare facilities.

The dental surgery at Heaton will be open seven days a week offering a wide range of treatments including check-ups, crowns and implants.

Sainsbury’s launched its first dental service in a supermarket last September in Sale in Greater Manchester, and it now has up to 5,500 patients registered.

David Gilder, head of professional services at Sainsbury’s, said: ‘We are pleased that Sainsbury’s Heaton Park is the first UK supermarket to enjoy an integrated healthcare facility with a dentist, doctor, pharmacy and podiatrist all on-site.

Our experience at Sainsbury’s Sale shows us that the combination of a convenient location, flexible opening hours and competitively priced treatments will be very popular with local residents, many of whom will have found it difficult to access private dental care before now.’

Jonathan Cobbold, a partner of Smile-on, said: ‘This successful BDA seminar is now in its twelfth year. It’s a great opportunity for those dentists who are considering setting out into an existing practice or the challenges faced when establishing a practice from scratch.’

Watch out for tax traps

As a result of lobbying by NASDA, entrepreneurs’ Relief was introduced in the Finance Bill of 2000. The relief is designed to reduce the scope for error, promote evidence-based care, encourage the involvement of the whole team and facilitate compliance with industry requirements.

Generally, Entrepreneurs’ Relief is good news for small businesses, including dental practices, because it allows gains to be taxed at only 10 per cent rather than the new 18 per cent business tax introduced by the Chancellor last year.

Any gains above £1m are subject to an 18 per cent tax rate.

However there are circumstances in which the relief will not apply and a dentist who does not take advice could find they are paying tax at 18 per cent rather than 10 per cent.

John Flewitt, partner at Menzies, a firm of Chartered Accountants, members of the National Association of Specialist Dental Accountants (NASDA), advises any dentists considering selling their practice to get specialist advice.

He said: ‘In the Finance Act 2008, the Chancellor removed taper relief from capital gains on business assets. This relief often resulted in the equivalent of a 10 per cent rate of tax on certain gains. When the Chancellor reduced the top rate of capital gains tax from 40 per cent to 18 per cent, there was an outcry that most gains on business assets would rise from 10 per cent to 18 per cent. As a result of lobbying by NASDA and other organisations, entrepreneurs’ relief was introduced.’

If full market rent has been paid by the practice to the partner after 5 April 2008, there would be restricted relief. This might include profit sharing arrangements where only the property owning partners get an initial fixed profit share.

Fortunately, said Mr Flewitt, disposal of practice goodwill would, in most instances, be eligible for entrepreneurs’ relief, as it is treated as a disposal of part of the business. However, if the practice is incorporated then there are more detailed requirements to qualify for the relief.

For more information, contact John Flewitt on 01744 971949 or jflewitt@menzies.co.uk. Alternatively, to find a NASDA member in your area, go to www.menzies.co.uk or call 0870 601 0250.

The combination of an introductory seminar, comprehensive workbook and 90-minute CD-ROM and/or online course, enables dental practices to comply with the clinical governance agenda.

BDA’s practical seminars

The British Dental Association is holding a seminar to offer dental professionals advice and information on funding a practice and the challenges they may face when setting up a practice from scratch. The one-day seminar will be held on 15 March at The Menzies Hotel, Glasgow.

The event, Setting Up In Practice, aims to answer a range of questions from the philosophi-