Maintaining momentum for training

Whether you’re a dentist, technician, hygienist or nurse, everyone must legally complete CPD. Sharon Holmes outlines the situation

By now we all know that CPD is an essential element in the dental industry. Not only is it required – it is also a legal necessity. At the end of a five-year period, the GDC will request from you a signed statement swearing that you have completed all your CPD as stipulated according to your qualifications, whether you are a dentist, technician, hygienist or dental nurse. You do not have to submit evidence, but there is a possibility they may ask you to present your certificates. There is no getting away from continual development.

Facilitating change

I have been with Dental Arts Studio for almost six years and my bosses, Dr Malhan and Dr Solanki, have always keen on carrying out in-house training. I was given the task of Not carrying this out, which at first I found stressful. After all, I had never taught anyone anything in my life. Despite the stress, I learned to create training material and teach and as a result, I became more confident in my role due to the work that I had put in.

In stating the obvious, as discussed, this should make us all comfortable with the effect of CPD and what it will bring to the industry on a whole. The face of dentistry changes all the time. Not just with technology as far as equipment and dental materials, but also with legislation and health and safety. The only hour of CPD. Then more recently, we have implemented training sessions to take place once every three months. We close the practice down for three hours of the day and I host the training.

The subjects that are chosen are based on the problems that these individual reports and create an across-the-board score sheet and take note of what the weaknesses are. I then research and read some good training material and from this I create my material to suit the needs of the practice. This is very time consuming and needs to be managed well to enable way to discover all these new implementations is to read. These are for your verifiable CPD which must be evidence based. Then you have the non-verifiable CPD’s which must be done but don’t need certificates for. We have two templates within Dental Arts Studio, one for verifiable and one for none, which each staff member has for a five year period to keep track of what has been achieved for a five-year period.

At Dental Arts Studio we have bi-weekly tool-box talks for an hour each. These count for one CPD. Then more recently, we have implemented training sessions to take place once every three months. We close the practice down for three hours of the day and I host the training.

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