Fish oil helps gum disease

In an article in the Journal of the American Dental Association, researchers from Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health found that dietary intake of polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) like fish oil shows promise for the effective treatment and prevention of gum disease. The study involved more than 9,000 adults who participated in the 1999-2004 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). The NHANES study also collected extensive demographic, ethnic, educational, and socioeconomic data, allowing the researchers to take other factors into consideration that might obscure the results. These findings encourage dental practitioners to advise their patients about changing their diets to include more fish oil, which could help prevent gum disease.

Happy Birthday X-Ray

On 8 November the cyborg world celebrated the birthday of Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen, who accidentally discovered X-Rays in 1895 during an experiment with cathode rays. The medical world has benefited greatly from his discovery, and can now see through objects, even people, for the first time. Just a week after his accidental discovery, Roentgen took the first X-Ray in 1895 during an experiment with cathode rays, which generated a high-voltage vacuum tube. Electrons from a cathode ray react with a gas and generate a current inside the tube, creating an electric current which makes it possible to see through objects, even people, for the first time. Just a week after his accidental discovery, Roentgen took the first X-Ray photo of his wife’s hand - a wedding ring, bone and all.

CQC fee consultation finally hits the headlines

CQC’s new fee consultation has been launched, and the proposals have been designed to encourage providers of health and social care to deliver services that meet high standards of quality. The consultation will run until 10 February 2011, and the results will be announced in March 2011. The consultation sets out proposals to simplify fees and put in place a single long-term regulatory framework that will cover all providers registered now and those who will be registered from April 2011. It proposes a framework for how fees will be charged based on principles such as fairness, simplicity, and proportionality.

The consultation document outlines three main proposals for:
- categories and bandings for fees, including fee amounts
- a single annual fee that incorporates registration and variation fees
- streamlining the payment date for annual fees

The announcement of the proposed fees comes just months after figures from the NHS Information Centre revealed that dentists’ expenses are increasing by 7% per cent a year and soon after the General Dental Council revealed significant increases in its fees for registration.

John Milne, Chair of the BDA’s General Dental Practice Committee, said: “Dental practices are already facing soaring expenses. Registration fees at the levels set out in this consultation will serve only to exacerbate the problems dentists across England are already facing. The ability of practices to invest in the staff and equipment that deliver patient care will be further harmed by the imposition of such exorbitant fees.”

Word in Westminster

The consultation, however, is not being accepted quietly. Dentists across the country have been canvassing MPs to scrap CQC registration and in Parliament this week a series of questions on CQC were raised in the House of Lords.

Questions on the functioning of the CQC were voiced by Lord Colwyn, Conservative Peer and Vice-Chair to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Dentistry towards Earl Howe, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, and further questions were targeted with regards to the assessment the CQC have made of the benefit to the public.

Responding to the written questions, Lord Howe stated that the CQC’s role of regulating safety is not covered in full by other regulatory bodies. He also noted that it is up to the CQC to determine whether recently redundant Dental Reference Officers have a role to play in the regulation of dental practices, and whether the fees set by the CQC must be approved by the Secretary of State for Health.

The consultation runs until January 2011. A further consultation will be carried out in 2011 before providers of NHS primary medical services.

Smile-on are organising a webinar on the issue of CQC hosted by Raj Rattan on December 1st. Email info@smile-on.com for more information.

You’ve worked hard. Now reap the rewards.

Think of selling your practice and think of

- Reducing your hours
- Developing practice potential & growth
- Supporting staff & patients
- Unlocking equity
- Being the Corporate Gaia Tax exile
- Clinical freedom
- A minimum 1 year working contract
- Reducing your income tax bill

If you’re thinking about selling your practice or group then come and have a chat with us.

Call Max on 01737 221020 EXT 2042 or email DAcquisitions@adp-dental.com

www.dental-tribune.co.uk

DENTAL TRIBUNE

The World’s Dental Newspaper • United Kingdom Edition

November 15-21, 2010

Vol. 4 No. 28

Care Quality Commission

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has launched a consultation on the fees it proposes to charge providers of health and adult social care. These fees intend to cover CQC’s work in registering providers and monitoring their compliance with essential levels of safety and quality.

The British Dental Association (BDA) has warned that the proposed fees for registration with the CQC will hit practices and patients hard, adding financial concerns to the worries already expressed about the administrative burden CQC registration will create. The consultation sets out proposals to simplify fees and put in place a single long-term scheme that will cover all providers registered now and those who will be registered from April 2011. It proposes a framework for how fees will be charged based on principles such as fairness, simplicity, and proportionality.

The consultation document outlines three main proposals for:
- categories and bandings for fees, including fee amounts
- a single annual fee that incorporates registration and variation fees
- streamlining the payment date for annual fees

The announcement of the proposed fees comes just months after figures from the NHS Information Centre revealed that dentists’ expenses are increasing by 7% per cent a year and soon after the General Dental Council revealed significant increases in its fees for registration.

John Milne, Chair of the BDA’s General Dental Practice Committee, said: “Dental practices are already facing soaring expenses. Registration fees at the levels set out in this consultation will serve only to exacerbate the problems dentists across England are already facing. The ability of practices to invest in the staff and equipment that deliver patient care will be further harmed by the imposition of such exorbitant fees.”

Word in Westminster

The consultations, however, are not being accepted quietly. Dentists across the country have been canvassing MPs to scrap CQC registration and in Parliament this week a series of questions on CQC were raised in the House of Lords.

Questions on the functioning of the CQC were voiced by Lord Colwyn, Conservative Peer and Vice-Chair to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Dentistry towards Earl Howe, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, and further questions were targeted with regards to the assessment the CQC have made of the benefit to the public.

Responding to the written questions, Lord Howe stated that the CQC’s role of regulating safety is not covered in full by other regulatory bodies. He also noted that it is up to the CQC to determine whether recently redundant Dental Reference Officers have a role to play in the regulation of dental practices, and whether the fees set by the CQC must be approved by the Secretary of State for Health.

The consultation runs until January 2011. A further consultation will be carried out in 2011 before providers of NHS primary medical services.

Smile-on are organising a webinar on the issue of CQC hosted by Raj Rattan on December 1st. Email info@smile-on.com for more information.