A matter of fairness

In the third article in the series on the state-of-play in NHS dentistry under the new contract, Neel Kothari suggests that the Government needs to rethink its strategy when it comes to allocating funding.

Testing the water

Many in the profession argue that the commissioning of dentistry through the UDA system needs to be re-investigated by the DH. It was clear that the old GDS charging system needed simplification for the benefit of patients and dentists needed a system where they could provide clinical care with unbiased judgment, rather than that dictated by the NHS. There was certainly no question that reform was needed, but given its importance, surely by now the DH must regret not piloting these reforms first?

Like it or not, there is a clear link between the way dentistry is funded and the type of treatments dentists are able to provide. Much of the initial promise of this new contract has now faded and what we are left with is more than just a few teething problems. But there is still much about the new contract that, with reform, could improve dentists’ working lives and the patient’s dental experience. The simplification of the charging system is in essence a good idea. I also like certain aspects of the new contract, such as being able to now provide small posterior composites on the NHS and having the freedom to see patients more regularly if I feel it is necessary. But I, like many others, feel by simplifying the system into bite-sized pieces, NHS dentistry has eroded to just that. By only having three bands, even a layperson can see that turning corners will be tight. We would all have different opinions on what the right number of treatment bands should be, but I think we can all agree three is not the magic number.

So with a few modifications, we must hope that this system can deliver dentistry with a better degree of fairness. For this to happen though, the Government must urgently take into consideration the concerns of the profession and patients. Let us hope that it hears the recommendations of dentists, patients and MPs and not only has the desire to change, but also the funding.

Diminishing trust

Many dentists have lost faith in the Government’s ability to fairly allocate funding across the UK and see this system as a massive oversimplification of what is actually needed to provide dental healthcare. Nothing epitomises the failures of the new contract more than the effect it has on those people who require dental healthcare the most. As I sift through the numerous reports on the workings of NHS dentistry, we are constantly made aware that access has not improved, less complex dentistry is being carried out and there are financial incentives to under treat.

Education

About the author

Neel Kothari qualified as a dentist from Bristol University Dental School in 2005, and currently works in Cambridge as an associate within the NHS. He has completed a year-long postgraduate certificate in implantology at UCL’s Eastman Dental Institute, and regularly attends postgraduate courses to keep up-to-date with current best practice. Immediately post graduation, he was able to work in the older NHS system and see the changes brought about through the introduction of the new NHS system. Like many other dentists, he has concerns for what the future holds within the NHS and as an NHS dentist, appreciates some of the difficulties in providing dental healthcare within this widely criticised system.
Outstanding ergonomics in its most attractive form

The KaVo treatment unit ESTETICA ES80 with its innovative suspended chair concept can be optionally adapted to the everyday needs of the dental practice. Both the dentist’s and assistant’s perspectives are provided with a configuration and an ergonomically perfect instrument layout ready for the future. The new AL 782 motor with optimal endo-function, and the possibility of integrating the surgery motor SL 590, makes additional, expensive instruments superfluous. The integral communication system ERGOCam 4 connects the ESTETICA ES80 to the practice system and delivers information directly to the treatment area. USB interfaces at both the dentist’s and the assistant’s elements enable USB suitable equipment to be connected to the unit at any time.

The ESTETICA ES80 is equipped with automated hygiene functions for easy, time-saving hygiene procedures.

For information or to arrange a visit from a KaVo Equipment Specialist, regarding the full range of KaVo products and services including dental units, handpieces, imaging products, surgery planning, cabinetry and flexible finance please contact us on Freephone 0800 218020.

Dental Art

Presented for the first time at Dental Showcase and greatly received, these are proud to launch the new product line of Dental Art cabinetry. Introduced to complement all aspects of the A-dec range, this Italian designed product offers a contemporary and stylish addition to the A-dec family of products. Since 1975, Dental Art have designed and manufactured cabinets and furniture for the dental industry. Now, in conjunction with A-dec, they offer the extensive range, a Transport II Mobile Surgery Unit.

Prices and designs are available from A-dec dealers and an example of the cabinetry available can be viewed at select A-dec showrooms. Please contact Adec for more details on 02476 559091.

The BOS reviews some annual highlights

On Reflection

2008 saw The British Orthodontic Society’s (BOS) Chairman Dr Iain Lathborn address a Parliamentary Health Select Committee at the Houses of Parliament as it continued its strong political lobbying to petition for a more sustainable, fair and consistent orthodontic provision across the country.

The BOS Annual Conference took place between 14-16 September 2008 and attracted a substantial number of members to Brighton.

Each year, an outstanding contributor to the world of orthodontics is invited to give the Northern Memorial Lecture at the Conference. This year was no exception when Dr Nigel Harradine, OBE, BOS Chairman Elect presented a perceptive address on ‘self-ligation: past, present and future’.

On the International front, the BOS are the Elizabeth Taylor Charities (ETC) will attend the new conference of the UK market. Available in a selection of colours, finishes and specifications, A-dec are excited to offer a further product dimension to the extensive line of established products.

Whether you have over patient, ambitexistant rear delivery, mobile cart or cabinet mounted units, you will have choices of built in ultrasonic scalers, curing lights and cameras. To finish the choices you have options of choice of lights from standard chair or ceiling mounted to latest LED.

Contact: Tel: 01442 269591 email info@dentalez.co.uk www.dentalez.co.uk

Another exciting new chair for dental services direct

When the time comes to buy a new dental chair the variety can be daunting. You’ll need to consider things like: patient comfort, ease of use, the ability to incorporate other equipment such as monitors and handpieces and what type of upholstery you would prefer.

Dental Services Direct have a wide selection of chairs and delivery packages from many major manufacturers and their experience and understanding of the dental trade can help make your decision swift and painless. Their exclusive agreements with both Ancar and Heka, combined with packages from Anthos, Belmont and DentalEZ mean there is something to suit every budget.

CEREC is proven to increase profits plus it adds the “wow” factor to any practice. CEREC enables you to provide your patients with same day crowns, bridges etc without the expense and time of waiting for the laboratory to construct the prosthesis. The finished prosthesis is invariably aesthetically pleasing and equally, the famous “in a day” claims ring true. CEREC accurately captures the occlusal contacts saving you from making any further adjustments.

Using CEREC allows you to produce perfect chairside ceramic restorations in the same visit whilst saving you and your patient time, laboratory fees and ultimately making your business more profitable.

To find out how the Sirona team can directly support your practice and for a no obligation demonstration of the CEREC 3D system telephone 0845 071 5040 or email: info@sironadental.co.uk or visit www.sironacadcamolutions.co.uk.

DentalEZ offers a unique flexible approach to the key elements of your surgery.

Your choice begins with type of chair from our basic Simplicity through to our ultimate J/V generation with unique seat tilt action and eight programmes as standard with UltraLeather upholstery. Options range from a range of styles and options.

100th Aseptico Unit

Veloxep the UK Distributor for the Aseptico range of portable dentistry products have just installed the 100th item from the extensive range, a Transport II Mobile Surgery Unit.

Get a FREE trip to Copenhagen

Dentists order a Heka Dental equipment is provided by Velopex, in the UK, and its most exciting new product is the R&S Ultrasonic Scaler.

Whether you have over patient, ambitexistant rear delivery, mobile cart or cabinet mounted units, you will have choices of built in ultrasonic scalers, curing lights and cameras. To finish the choices you have options of choice of lights from standard chair or ceiling mounted to latest LED.

Contact: Tel: 01442 269591 email info@dentalez.co.uk www.dentalez.co.uk

100th Aseptico Unit

With Heka Dental you’re in safe hands!

Heka Dental are inviting Dentists to visit Wonderful Copenhagen to see their fantastic treatment and production facilities, as well as their beautiful city. They will be offering several treatment days which will normally run from Thursday morning to Saturday afternoon. During which time their guests will have an opportunity to visit their factory as well as enjoy some of the delights of Wonderful Copenhagen. If Dentists order a Heka Dental package before or during the trip, their visit (including flights, hotel, lunch and dinners) will be free. If they do, they will only pay for the flight and hotel.

Incorporating the latest Treatment Centre Technology, Heka Dental’s UCNIC is the ultimate embodiment of feedback from patients, dentists, dental technicians and service engineers.

The extensive Aseptico range includes portable patient chair as well as operators stools and lights. There are a number of different delivery units available offering either electric or air turbine a well as high or low volume suction all including 5-thy-1 syringe.

For more details on the range of Aseptico products supported by Veloxep, in the UK, please see: www.veloxep.com and follow the right hand scroll bar to the Aseptico range. If you would like a demonstration, please contact Veloxep. Tel 0114 268 6076

Chairs & Units

Another exciting new chair for dental services direct

When the time comes to buy a new dental chair the variety can be daunting. You’ll need to consider things like: patient comfort, ease of use, the ability to incorporate other equipment such as monitors and handpieces and what type of upholstery you would prefer.

Dental Services Direct have a wide selection of chairs and delivery packages from many major manufacturers and their experience and understanding of the dental trade can help make your decision swift and painless. Their exclusive agreements with both Ancar and Heka, combined with packages from Anthos, Belmont and DentalEZ mean there is something to suit every budget.

In addition to these, Dental Services Direct is delighted to now also offer the TR Series of integrated treatment units from Stern Weber.

For further information on the TR Series and all other available chairs contact your local Dental Services Direct sales office: Scotland & the North tel: 01422 600 550, South 0845 071 5040, South West 0845 600 550.

Scaling Made Simple with the R&S Ultrasonic Scaler

Realistically priced is the R&S Ultrasonic Scaler, available exclusively from Dental Sky. This light, small and portable ultrasonic scaler is quickly, effectively and efficiently removes dental calculus and stains from the tooth surface.