A new way to train in decontamination

Decontamination and infection control is a vital issue for dental practices, and one innovative training facility has just opened to ensure top class training for future dental professionals. Dental Tribune was at the official opening ceremony.

The new decon training suite

The Health and Social Care Act 2008, issued by the Department of Health and effective from 1st April 2009, requires all healthcare professionals, including dentists, to implement a ‘Code of Practice to help reduce health care associated infections’. The Act describes a number of Compliance Criteria and provides advice on how to implement procedures to ensure compliance. Compliance to the Act by dental practices is now monitored and assessed by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

One of the ways to ensure this happens going forward is to ensure all dental professionals are trained to understand their duties in the areas of sterilisation and decontamination from the outset.

This is now becoming a reality at Guy’s Dental School, as it unveiled its new decontamination training suite, developed in association with Prestige Medical, in June 2011.

Located on Floor 20 of Guy’s Tower, the new suite features the latest in equipment and furniture needed to become compliant to the ‘best practice’ standard of the HTM 01-05 guidelines.

The official opening was conducted by Martin Fulford at an evening reception held at Guy’s then handed over to Nairn Wilson, Dean of Guy’s Dental School.

Speaking at the event, Prestige Medical’s Commercial Director David Robinson said that this was a great example of trade and education working together to provide an approach to a challenge that faces both the dental profession and the manufacturers that serve them. He said: “It’s fabulous to be here at Guy’s to be able to present the culmination of a year-long project. A huge thank you to Nairn [Wilson] for the opportunity to do this.

“I have been in the dental industry for almost four years, and the changes I’ve seen in that time are incredible. HTM 01-05 has thrown up some interesting challenges for both manufacturers and dental professionals, and change is never easy.

“At Prestige Medical, we found that an increasing number of dentists and as well as distributors were coming to us with questions about HTM 01-05. We needed to respond to these questions, to become providers of the answers. This has seen our communication department double in size as we became experts in the HTM standards and developed a solution for our customers and partners.”

Martin Fulford addressed the assembled guests, emphasising the necessity for training future generations of dental students in decontamination issues to ensure that patients receive high quality care in a safe environment. He said: “What you’ve got here is a fantastic facility.

“We need to train the dental workforce from day one; it needs to be hands-on and integrated into a dental student’s training. No dental professional can hide from the requirements of HTM 01-05, and we must make students aware of their duties with regards to infection control.”

He added: “To provide a facility such as this you need to have support from both educational institutions and the trade. Congratulations to both Guy’s and Prestige Medical for getting this project off the ground.”

Dean of Guy’s Dental School, Prof Nairn Wilson, also said a few words: “We are delighted that people recognise what we are trying to achieve here at the dental school.