



GDC Newsletter - November 2019

Annual Renewal for dentists opens 11 November

The Annual Renewal period for dentists opens on 11 November 2019.

Dentists, to renew your registration, you need to:

- make your annual or end-of-cycle CPD statement
- declare that you have, or will have, appropriate indemnity
- pay your Annual Retention Fee (ARF).

Your ARF must be paid each year to ensure you remain on the dentist register. Please ensure your payment of £680 is made by 31 December. It provides you with a 12-month license to practise in the UK and is non-refundable. The ARF funds the system of dental regulation in the UK, which keeps patients safe and maintains public confidence in dentistry.

You must also tell us about CPD, whether or not you completed any this year. The introduction of the Enhanced CPD means all dentists now need to make an annual CPD statement by 28 January. If you have chosen not to complete any CPD this year, you must record zero-hours. Those completing a five-year CPD cycle need to make an end-of-cycle statement. Only those completing their first Annual Renewal are exempt from the CPD requirements.

The quickest and easiest way to complete Annual Renewal is by using eGDC. It can be accessed 24/7, you can update your personal details and download your annual practising certificate. If you don't yet have an [eGDC account, you can set it up easily online](#).

If you have setup a direct debit, the payment amount will be updated automatically, and will be taken on 3 December. Please also note that the automated phone payment line is no longer available. All payments must be made using eGDC or by post to GDC, One Colmore Square, B4 6AJ. Payments by post must arrive by 31 December, so please check delivery times with your carrier, to ensure it reaches us before the deadline.

If you have any questions, please get in touch on 020 7167 6000 or renewal@gdc-uk.org.

CQC state of care report published

The Care Quality Commission's (CQC) annual report on [The state of health care and adult social care in England 2018/19](#) is now available online.

The CQC carried out inspections of 1,033 dental practices in the year to 31 March 2019, which is approximately 10% of practices in England. The CQC reports that the inspection outcomes were broadly in line with the previous year's results, with no regulatory action taken in 85% of all inspections.

The report highlights the continuing difficulties faced by some people in accessing non-urgent dental services in their local community, but also notes the wide variation in access issues across England. The CQC also considers how the adoption of new technology is working to improve patient outcomes and some of the strategic and practical barriers faced by practitioners.



NHS England launches mental health support for NHS dentists

The NHS has launched a [24/7 confidential mental health support service](#) for NHS dentists and doctors in England. NHS Practitioner Health is a self-referral service for those struggling with mental health or addiction problems. The service can be accessed by phone or email, appointments are available, and there is a 24-hour text service available to those requiring urgent help.

New dental record keeping guidance for England

This October, NHS England and NHS improvement published [Dental Record Keeping Standards](#), which provides guidance for dental professionals about the type and detail of information to be recorded for three categories of examination:

- new patients
- recall patients
- urgent or emergency patients.

The intention of the guidelines (set out in three templates) is to establish a common approach for patient record keeping, across England, in readiness for the roll-out of electronic patient records.

The templates were developed using the 'Delphi method', a consensual development approach which asks stakeholders to make recommendations for inclusion, which are then refined further over successive stages. The consultation process brought together professional bodies, Royal Colleges and regulators. The resulting guidance has been set within the [Faculty of General Dental Practices \(UK\)](#) guidelines on record keeping.

Our involvement was to ensure the new guidelines complement our standards, specifically the requirement that records be 'up to date, complete, clear, accurate and legible'. We are confident that these new templates, whilst not mandated, will support dental professionals in providing care that meets the standards and ensure patients receive care that best suits their needs.

Have you seen our latest blogs?

We have published a number of blogs over the last month to help you stay informed, please visit the blogs page on our website for more from:

- Our Chair, Bill Moyes, on the [October Council meeting](#).
- The DTA asks if we're ready for the [Medical Devices Regulations?](#)
- The [Association for Dental Education in Europe conference, Berlin 2019](#).

GDC corporate strategy consultation outcome

We have now published the [outcome report from the consultation on our corporate strategy](#), which closed earlier this year. The consultation, which received 79 responses from individuals and organisations, sought views about proposals for how we intend to deliver our broad statutory objectives over the next three years, as well as the associated costs.

As with any consultation, a variety of views were expressed, but we are encouraged by the broad support for the direction of travel set out in the strategy, particularly in relation to the continued collaborative working with the professions.

Our new approach to strategy development is designed to bring more visibility to the relationship between our regulatory activity and the fees we charge, providing increased transparency.

Work is now underway to finalise the strategy, which is due for publication later this year. In the meantime, if you have any questions about anything covered by the report, please get in touch at communications@gdc-uk.org.

Annual Report and Accounts

Our Annual Report and Accounts 2018 were laid in parliament last week and are now [available on the GDC website](#).

Appointments at the GDC

We are very pleased to announce Geraldine Campbell has been reappointed as a lay member of the Council and Ann Brown has been selected as the new independent member of our Remuneration Committee. For further details about the knowledge and

experience that Geraldine and Ann bring to their respective roles, please visit our [website](#).

New Executive Directors at the GDC

Our new executive directors, Stefan Czerniawski, Executive Director Strategy, and Sarah Keyes, Executive Director Organisational Development, have now both taken up their posts at the GDC. You can find out more about our [executive team on our website](#).