

GDC Newsletter - October 2019

Lifelong learning discussion document deadline imminent

There are just a few days left for you to help set the direction of travel for CPD. Regardless of your role in the dental team, you will be affected by changes to CPD, so please take this opportunity to share your ideas on where we should be headed.

We are inviting views on the future model for lifelong learning for dental professionals, including portfolio models, minimum hourly requirements, verification systems, the introduction of new types of learning, and alternatives to recommended topics. We are also looking for ideas on how we can introduce more flexibility into the system to meet the needs of different dental roles, working environments and development needs.

We want to put professionals in the driving seat of any future CPD system. Our challenge is to create a system for lifelong learning that is responsive to the needs of dental professionals, while protecting patients and fostering public confidence.

If you can help, please go to our [website and give your view](#) by 3 October.



Dental Complaints Service review: results now available

The report of the [Dental Complaints Service \(DCS\) Review 2015 to 2018](#) is now available online. The report provides an overview of performance against the key indicators for complaint resolution relating to private dental treatment. It includes figures for the number of complaints received and fitness to practise referrals, both of which have fallen over the reporting period.

Michelle Williams, Head of DCS Operations, said: “We are very happy to provide such a positive account of the progress the DCS has made from 2015 to 2018. We have now

helped to resolve more than 5,000 complaints and assisted with over 19,000 enquiries, whilst remaining committed to our ethos, to be impartial, fair and free.”

Whistleblowing disclosures report 2019

Healthcare professional regulators

Whistleblowing in dentistry up slightly

The joint Whistleblowing disclosures report 2019 covering 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 is now available. During the period, we received 75 whistleblowing disclosures, with 56 of these resulting in the opening of a fitness to practise case. The figures are slightly up on the previous year, when we received 56 disclosures in total.

We received a relatively higher number of disclosures than other regulators, and this has largely been attributed to differing clinical governance frameworks found across the healthcare sector. You can find the [full report on our website](#).

Need more time to complete your CPD?

If you are a dentist approaching the end of your five-year CPD cycle and do not have enough time to meet your minimum CPD hours, you can now apply for a period of grace.

You can apply for a grace period in the final six months of a five-year CPD cycle, if, due to exceptional circumstances, you will not be able to meet the CPD hourly requirements. Applications for grace must be made in writing and there needs to be a good reason for an extension to be approved. The quickest and easiest way to apply is by using the link on your [eGDC account](#). If grace is granted, you will be given an additional 56 days at the end of your CPD cycle to comply.

Please note, you must apply for grace **before** your CPD cycle ends. For further information on [Enhanced CPD and grace periods](#) please visit our website.