



First CDTs register with the GDC

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Having completed the FGDP(UK) Diploma in Clinical Dental Technology, the first clinical dental technicians (CDTs) are now able to register with the General Dental Council (GDC).

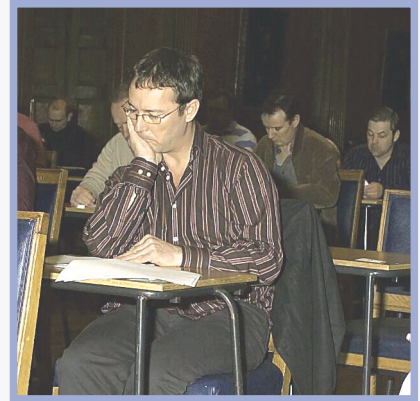
The diploma was established after the GDC introduced mandatory registration for CDTs in July 2006. The FGDP(UK)'s route to registration is not a full training course (there are currently no full courses in clinical dental technology in the UK), but it is recognised that a number of dental technicians have completed the Diploma in Clinical Dental Technology from the George Brown College in Toronto, Canada. The FGDP(UK) course allows dental technicians who have gained this diploma to meet the GDC's requirements for registration by undertaking supplementary training and an assessment.

During the autumn of 2006, around 80 trainee CDTs have been attending training sessions, provided by the University of Kent in association with the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Dental Deanery. To complete the course, candidates attended three two-day teaching sessions, including classes on UK legislation, prevention of oral and dental diseases, and the recognition of abnormalities in the mouth, such as potentially malignant lesions. The syllabus also includes specific training in diagnosis and treatment planning for edentulous

patients, as the GDC is now allowing these patients to be treated by a CDT without first being seen by a dentist.

The trainees were required to complete a portfolio, comprising evidence of competency in clinical record-keeping and management of medical emergencies, and evidence of having undertaken continuing professional development. Those hoping to register as a CDT were also required to undertake some training in radiography and CPR, in order to meet GDC requirements.

The first examination of the diploma took place at the Royal College of Surgeons of England on 22 January, with



A candidate at January's clinical dental technology exam.

around 40 candidates sitting. The rest of the trainees sat the second examination diet on 20 March 2007. Those who were successful in the examination and the presentation of the portfolio of evidence have now been issued with documentation to allow them to register with the GDC. They will be awarded their diploma certificates at a special diplomates ceremony during the summer, and will also be invited to the annual FGDP(UK) diplomates' ceremony in February 2008.

What is a clinical dental technician?

The role of the clinical dental technician (CDT), sometimes known as a clinical dental technologist or denturist, was introduced to the dental team when the GDC introduced registration for dental care professionals in July 2006.

The role of the CDT includes assessing patients for, manufacturing, and fitting dentures. Under the new legislation, the role of the CDT will include being able to see totally edentulous patients without necessary prior review from a dentist. CDTs will also be able to make partial dentures on receipt of a referral and signed treatment plan from a dentist.