



FACULTY OF GENERAL DENTAL PRACTICE (UK)  
THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

05 MAY 2006

## PRESS RELEASE

### Launch of DwSI Scheme

The Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) and the Department of Health are pleased to announce the publication of detailed competency frameworks for Dentists with Special Interests (DwSIs).

The frameworks, jointly developed by the FGDP(UK) and the DoH, are intended for use by dentists and primary care trusts (PCTs) and set out competencies for the scope of treatment that can be undertaken by DwSIs. Frameworks are currently available in the areas of minor oral surgery, orthodontics, periodontics and endodontics, with additional areas to follow.

The DwSI scheme provides PCTs with the flexibility to contract with dentists who have developed special interests in addition to their generalist role. This will help widen the choice available to patients in terms of the nature and locality of NHS dental care provided.

Dentists wishing to be accredited as a DwSI will be required by their PCT to demonstrate knowledge, skills and experience in their special interest area against the competency frameworks.

"I have been encouraged recently by the enthusiasm shown by the profession and PCTs for the DwSI concept", said Mike Mulcahy, Dean of the FGDP(UK).

"I am delighted that the faculty and the department have now published the

competency frameworks, which we see as an aid to delivering enhanced services within primary care and a means of encouraging dentists to develop their practice within the NHS."

In addition to the frameworks, a *Step-by-step guide to setting up a DwSI service* takes PCTs through the process of assessing whether the commissioning of dental services from a DwSI would be appropriate, how such practitioners should be accredited and how a service might operate.

Nationally, the FGDP(UK) is able to advise on appropriate training to meet the generalist and special interest competencies, and provide help through its Career Pathway on demonstrating competencies through the production of an evidence-based portfolio.

ENDS

The Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) is the academic home for general dental practitioners in the UK. Based at The Royal College of Surgeons of England, it aims to promote excellence in the standards of patient care in general dental practice by encouraging involvement in postgraduate training and assessment, education and research. The FGDP(UK) also recognises the value of the dental team in modern dentistry and actively supports the career development of dental care professionals.

For more information, images or logos, please contact Charlotte Worker on 020 7869 6759 or [cworker@rcseng.ac.uk](mailto:cworker@rcseng.ac.uk). Also visit [www.fgdp.org.uk](http://www.fgdp.org.uk) for further details.