



18 January 2008

PRESS RELEASE

New DwSI framework for local sedation services

The Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) and the Department of Health are pleased to announce the publication of the latest in a series of competency frameworks for Dentists with Special Interests (DwSIs). The *Guidelines for the Appointment of DwSIs in Conscious Sedation* are intended to provide Primary Care Trusts with guidance to support the development of dental sedation services where there is a local need. They will also help dentists with an interest in this area to identify their learning needs and undertake further training.

Conscious sedation is an integral element of the control of pain and anxiety in dentistry. The 'standard' conscious sedation techniques are suitable for use by all appropriately trained and experienced primary care dentists. However, a DwSI in conscious sedation may be able to offer more advanced or 'alternative' conscious sedation techniques and provide conscious sedation for patients with more complex medical histories and/or treatment needs.

The guidelines, which are intended to be read in conjunction with two key reports (The Standing Dental Advisory Committee's *Conscious Sedation in The Provision of Dental Care* (2003) and the Standing Committee on Sedation for Dentistry's *Standards for Conscious Sedation in Dentistry: Alternative Techniques* (2007)), have been developed in conjunction with representatives from the Society for the Advancement of Anaesthesia in Dentistry, the Association of Dental Anaesthetists and the British Dental Association, among others.

According to David Craig, Head of Sedation and Special Care Dentistry at Kings College London Dental Institute and chair of the working group which developed the DwSI guidelines, "There is a shortage of suitably trained and experienced dentists who are able to

offer alternative sedation techniques for the small number of patients who cannot be safely and effectively managed using standard techniques."

David continues, "It is hoped that the publication of these guidelines will support dentists who wish to develop an interest in this important area of dental practice, and that this will benefit anxious patients faced with the prospect of an unpleasant and possibly distressing dental procedure."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. The FGDP(UK) and the Department of Health have previously published national guidelines for the appointment of DwSIs in the fields of orthodontics, periodontics, endodontics and minor oral surgery, and also prison dentistry with NHS Primary Care Contracting.
2. Further information on DwSIs, written for dentist, PCT and patient audiences, as well as all DwSI guidelines published to date, can be found at www.fgdp.org.uk/dwsi/. Also see www.primarycarecontracting.nhs.uk/249.php.
3. The link to this press release is www.fgdp.org.uk/news/pdf/pr_nov07_dwsi_prison_dentistry.pdf. Images and logos are available on request.
4. The Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) is the academic home for general dental practitioners (GDPs) and dental care professionals (DCPs) 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) supports the career development of both GDPs and DCPs and recognises the value of an integrated dental team in modern dentistry.

For more information, please contact Charlotte Worker on 020 7869 6759 or cworker@rcseng.ac.uk. Also visit www.fgdp.org.uk for further details.