



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

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PRESS RELEASE

Key Skills – it's all in the making!

Earlier this year, the Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) joined forces with Smile-on Ltd to produce the *Key Skill in Primary Dental Care* package; an interactive programme of relevant, practical learning for every member of the dental team covering medical emergencies, infection control, legislation and good practice guidelines, clinical record keeping, radiography, team training, and risk management and communication.

So what was the rationale behind such a programme and what went into the making of it? We spoke to some of the key people involved:

Mike Busby became involved because Denplan sponsored the Team Training section of the programme. He has had an interest in the subject for the last 15 years and has worked as a part-time consultant for the company; most of his time during this consultancy has been focused on developing and delivering training modules for dental teams.

Mike said: "As a profession, we are seeing the value of real teamwork, and beginning to invest time and resources as never before. I am sure that this will be reflected in happier dental teams, healthier patients and more successful dental businesses."

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GDP Christine Whitworth took on the role of subject matter expert in infection control. She became involved with the project when she started to research the subject with the Faculty two years previously; Dr Whitworth has an MPhil in research in infection control.

Christine Whitworth described the Key Skills package as: “Exceptionally versatile for students and VDPs, a guide to good practice and a basis for implementing clinical governance.”

She added that the educational aspects reflected upon the most important areas of patient care and that she was “impressed at how well each specialist took the team approach to meet tight deadlines and to complete the package right on time.”

Describing Key Skills as a significant advance, project manager for Smile-on Janelle Montgomery said: “Key Skills opens a training pathway for dentists wanting to attain the MFGDP (UK) diploma and helps practices to implement some core clinical governance initiatives. But, it is also a highly engaging, interactive training programme that is based on content from leading names within each topic. This makes it an essential learning resource for any member of the practice team.”

Samantha Campbell-Ryde is a dental nurse at Barbican-based Dentistry 100. She duplicated her official role of dental nurse by acting as such in video clips in the areas of health and safety, including resuscitation. She said that Key Skills is an excellent way of learning, especially for those who were not able to attend college-based education. As it has been designed with maximum flexibility in mind, users can complete the course modules in any order and at their own pace whenever and wherever convenient. Compared with college-based learning, the flexibility, said Ms Campbell-Ryde, made it “a million times better!”

The modular, distance-learning programme can be purchased either in CD format or as a protected website. It includes video clips of real-life scenarios, quizzes and study tips.

To order your copy, please call Smile-on on 020 7400 8989.

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