



**Faculty of General Dental Practitioners (UK)
of The Royal College of Surgeons of England**

*Promoting Quality in General Dental
Practice*

PRESS RELEASE

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FGDP(UK) education and training: setting the standards for the profession
The Faculty of General Dental Practitioners (UK) has introduced the Certificate in Appraisal of Dental Practices to bring a more universal approach to quality assessment in primary dental care.

Directed by Pat Langley, the Certificate in Appraisal of Dental Practices involves three days contact learning, a distance learning element and a practice assessment with reflective written component. It is aimed at existing practice assessors in the quality assurance field and advisers from dental vocational training, PCTs, private healthcare providers and the armed forces. It appeals equally to mentors overseeing underperforming primary dental care workers, and other individuals or organisations with an interest in quality assurance.

The Dental Practice Board (DPB), which is working in partnership with practitioners to improve clinical governance, has already placed 63 dental reference officers on this programme. Alan Neale, Clinical Training Manager at the DPB identified the Faculty's appraisal certificate as a useful benchmark for dental reference officers undertaking practice-based appraisal processes. Wayne Windmill, Organisation Development and Project Manager at the DBP feels that 'the programme has helped the Dental Practice

Board to assure the quality of the practice and provides an important seal of approval for our officers’.

Denplan, too, has already accredited a number of their assessors using the programme and will continue to accredit others over the forthcoming year.

Dean of the Faculty, Mike Mulcahy, believes the programme has already started to serve its purpose, saying: “The increasing uptake of the programme should lead to a more universal approach to quality assurance in the primary care setting.” Captain Surgeon (D) Richard Norris, one of the trained assessors for the programme, agrees: ‘The sharing of best practice within this programme, allied to an academic approach to quality, is already proving to be a great success and an exciting step forward for dentistry’.

Successful completion of the programme leads to an FGDP(UK) Certificate rated at 15 postgraduate credits within the Faculty’s career pathway. The Faculty’s career pathway aims to provide career long support and development for the general dental practitioner leading to the Fellowship of the Faculty, the FFGDP(UK).

To find out more about the Certificate in Appraisal of Dental Practices, call 020 7869 6758 or e-mail fgdp@rcseng.ac.uk

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