



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

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **New Implant Training Standards Ensure Patient Protection**

The Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) has published essential new guidance that sets out training standards necessary for the practice of implant dentistry.

*Training Standards in Implant Dentistry for General Dental Practitioners* was produced by the Standards Working Group, convened by the General Dental Council (GDC) and comprising people nominated by the following bodies:

- Association of Consultants and Specialists in Restorative Dentistry
- Association of Dental Implantology
- Royal College of Surgeons of England - Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) and Faculty of Dental Surgery
- Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh – Faculty of Dental Surgery
- Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow – Dental Faculty
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland – Faculty of Dentistry
- GDC

The Working Group was established in response to concerns about the quality of implant dentistry practised by some dentists, and about the provision of training in this area. The aim of the Working Group in setting training standards was to ensure that general dental practitioners who

practise implant dentistry are competent to carry out this work, which represents an important treatment option for patients. Patient protection is also central to the rationale behind the guidelines after the Working Group found the provision of training in this area to be varied and on an *ad hoc* basis.

GDC President, Hew Mathewson, said, "The GDC welcomes the publication of this guidance. When the Council considered the standards and training in implant dentistry in 2004, it became clear that the provision of training in this area was very varied and that the setting of common guidelines was important in the interest of patients - particularly as it is such a new, fast-growing and invasive aspect of dentistry.

The GDC is not responsible for the setting of detailed clinical standards in particular areas of dentistry. We are therefore delighted that the Faculty, along with other key stakeholders, has taken forward work to introduce dental implant guidelines. We expect that this document will be used as a benchmark by those who practise implant dentistry, to ensure that they are competent to carry out this work."

*Training Standards in Implant Dentistry for GDPs* is available to download from the Faculty's website at [www.fgdp.org.uk](http://www.fgdp.org.uk). The guidelines will also be published in the respective journals and websites of the bodies represented on the group, including the July issue of *Primary Dental Care*. The Faculty will reconvene the Working Group every three years to review the guidance and update it as required.

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The Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) is the academic home for general dental practitioners in the UK. Part of 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.

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