

Dental PAG Pieces – Issue 3, November 2019

Bringing you snippets to share learning from the Dental Performance Advisory Group meeting in the SW, where concerns raised about dentists are reviewed, including information from serious incidents, SEAs and complaints.

Missing a 'foreign object',
during a dental procedure?

Removal of an incorrect
tooth? This is a Never Event!

"It's beginning to look a lot like
Christmas" ... and nearly time to
renew your GDC registration

Learning and information to share or remind:

1 – Missing a 'foreign object' during a dental procedure?

The Dental PAG have recently discussed a couple of incidents where foreign objects (a crown of a tooth being extracted and an implant screwdriver) have been lost during a dental procedure. The crown was inhaled, the screwdriver was not located and presumed swallowed. The important advice however is to always assume inhalation until evidence disproves.

Guidance from the Peninsula Dental School advises following the medical emergency procedure for choking, in accordance with the GDC and UK resuscitation councils' guidance <https://www.resus.org.uk/choking/> When referring to hospital, a covering letter is to be written on the patient records and provide a hard copy to the patient and advise to attend the nearest A&E department to identify the inhaled/swallowed item. A member of the dental team should phone the local A&E department ahead of the patient's arrival to explain the reason for referral. A member of the dental team should, if time permits, accompany the patient to the A&E department. Ask the patient if reception staff can phone a family member or friend to meet them at the hospital so they are not alone. Finally, liaise with the hospital to determine the next steps with regard to on-going patient care and any treatment they may need as a result of the incident.

2 – Removal of an incorrect tooth – This is a Never Event!

A number of incidents have occurred recently where the wrong tooth has been extracted. This should be reported to NHS England as a serious incident and this currently constitutes a Never Event. The exception is if the tooth is a primary tooth (unless performed under a general anaesthetic). Never Events do not necessarily cause harm but **“are defined as Serious Incidents that are wholly preventable because guidance or safety recommendations that provide strong systemic protective barriers are available at national level and should have been implemented by all healthcare providers”**. The revised Never Event framework and list of Never Events can be found at:

https://improvement.nhs.uk/documents/2265/Revised_Never_Events_policy_and_framework_FINAL.pdf

https://improvement.nhs.uk/documents/2899/Never_Events_list_2018_FINAL_v7.pdf

Please contact your local NHS England patient safety team in the SW Region to inform of the incident along with a completed 72hour report or a SEA form.

3 – “It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas” and nearly time to renew your GDC registration

Not only is it beginning to look a lot like Christmas, it's coming up to that time of year where, for the majority of you, your GDC registration is needing to be renewed. If you have moved to a new house or changed any of your personal details, please let the GDC know to ensure your registration renewal goes as smoothly as possible. Otherwise if your GDC registration is revoked, this also results in a **mandatory** removal from the Dental Performers List, as set out in the National Performers List regulations.

You are also required to inform NHS England of any change in personal details as part of your inclusion on the Dental Performers List as per section 4 - Application for inclusion in a performers list - **(3) The Practitioner must provide the following undertakings — (b) to notify the Board within 7 days of any material change to the information provided in the application, whether such change occurs before the Board's determination of the Practitioner's application or subsequently;** More information can be found at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/335/pdfs/ukxi_20130335_en.pdf and please complete NPL3 via the following link: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/primary-care/primary-care-commissioning/performer-list-policies-and-procedures/> to change your details.