

DentCPD Core Topics – Discussion Document

The next stage in work package 3 of the DentCPD project is the core CPD topics consensus process. The work package findings to date will be presented to the ADEE 2011 Lifelong Learning SIG. The intention is to reach an agreement on the proposal for core, and recommended CPD topics for graduate dentists in Europe. Discussion groups will give members an opportunity to debate the proposal. Dissenting voices will be considered and a final vote held.

The proposal is:

- There will be three core compulsory topics which must be regularly undertaken by graduate dentists practicing in the EU: medical emergencies (including CPR), cross infection control, and the medically compromised patient.
- In addition, there will be five core recommended topics for graduate dentists practicing in the EU: radiation protection, health and safety, pain management, child protection, and evidence based dentistry.

How frequently these core compulsory topics should be undertaken by graduate dentists will also be discussed.

This proposal was developed following an extensive literature search and survey conducted as part of the DentCPD project.

Background information on DentCPD

DentCPD is a project aiming to harmonize and standardise dental CPD education throughout Europe. The project, which began in October 2010 and will run until October 2012, will identify agreed essential CPD requirements of an EU graduate dentist and provide guidelines for the management and delivery of high quality CPD by European dental schools and other CPD providers.

The outcomes of work package 3 of the project are:

- An inventory of CPD in Europe
- Agreement on **core CPD topics**, some of which will be compulsory and others recommended, for all graduate dentists practicing in the EU.

Progress to date

An online survey was developed by the Cardiff team, which was circulated and debated at ADEE SIGs 2009 and 2010, subjected to multiple redrafting, and piloted before the final draft was sent out in December 2010 to dental associations of the EU, dental schools through the ADEE network, those expressing an interest at SIG ADEE09 and ADEE10, and known links across the EU (total 664). There were 143 responses from 30 EU member and candidate countries (and a further 29 from respondents outside the EU). Respondents were asked to indicate which CPD topics, out of a list of 23, were currently compulsory in their country, and which topics they thought *should* be compulsory.

Out of the 23 topics, those with 50%¹ or more respondents agreeing that the topic should be compulsory formed the basis for a second, paper-based questionnaire which was administered to groups of dentists in four EU countries. This paper-based questionnaire asked respondents whether or not each of these 13 topics should be compulsory for graduate dentists in the EU. There was some difference in response between countries (see Table 1).

On the basis of the responses to both the EU DentCPD survey and the responses of dentists in four countries, eight topics had more than 49%² of respondents agreeing that they should be compulsory. These eight topics will form the basis of the proposal to be discussed at the Lifelong Learning SIG. **By the end of the session, it is hoped that consensus will be reached on an official recommendation for core compulsory and recommended CPD topics.**

¹ The cut off figure was 50% at the time of distribution to the first group of dentists. A small number of returns to the EU survey came in later. As a consequence the revised cut off percentage increased slightly to 52%.

² As four topics gained 49% agreement and this was four percentage points higher than the next topic, it was decided to use this as a cut off point for further consensus discussion rather than 50%.

TABLE 1: CORE TOPICS SURVEY RESULTS

Total: 554 responses

Topic	Should be compulsory						
	Country A % of 126 (n)	Country B % of 115 (n)	Country C % of 72 (n)	Country D % of 98 (n)	Across countries % of 411 (n)	EU DentCPD % of 143 (n)	Total % of 554 (n)
Medical emergencies (including cardiopulmonary resuscitation)	99 (125)	81 (93)	96 (69)	72 (71)	87 (358)	94 (118)	85 (472)
Cross infection control/decontamination & disinfection	96 (121)	68 (78)	76 (55)	58 (57)	76 (311)	90 (111)	71 (422)
The medically compromised patient	60 (75)	72 (83)	88 (63)	76 (74)	72 (295)	70 (78)	67 (373)
Radiation protection	87 (109)	41 (47)	49 (35)	40 (39)	56 (230)	85 (102)	60 (332)
Health & safety	55 (69)	38 (44)	49 (35)	50 (49)	48 (197)	70 (77)	49 (274)
Pain management	38 (48)	42 (48)	69 (50)	69 (68)	52 (214)	56 (60)	49 (274)
Child protection	64 (81)	25 (29)	44 (32)	56 (55)	48 (197)	64 (73)	49 (270)
Evidence-based dentistry	33 (42)	49 (56)	36 (26)	72 (71)	47 (195)	65 (74)	49 (269)
Legal issues	48 (61)	19 (22)	47 (34)	66 (65)	44 (182)	60 (69)	45 (251)
Health education and prevention	25 (31)	31 (36)	39 (28)	61 (60)	38 (155)	62 (68)	40 (223)
Risk management	37 (46)	39 (45)	49 (35)	46 (45)	42 (171)	48 (51)	40 (222)
Communication skills	25 (31)	27 (31)	36 (26)	59 (58)	36 (146)	61 (70)	39 (216)
Record keeping	45 (57)	25 (29)	39 (28)	50 (49)	40 (163)	49 (52)	39 (215)

DentCPD – The Team: The six organisations collaborating on the project are Cardiff University, UK, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece, Rīga Stradiņš University, Latvia, University of Helsinki, Finland, Academic Centre for Dentistry, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and the Association for Dental Education in Europe based in the University of Dublin dental school in Ireland.

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