



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme



Life Long Learning Special Interest Group Programme for ADEE 2013

- 1. Introduction to the DentCPD Reference Manual – Supplement to European Journal of Dental Education**
- 2. Group discussions**
 - a. Quality Assurance of Dental CPD activities - impact on clinical practice**
 - b. Accreditation of dental CPD activities - place in revalidation**
- 3. Sustaining the DentCPD project and SIG on Life Long Learning**

Quality Assurance of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for Dental Professionals

Introduction

In May 2013, the DentCPD Project's 'Dental CPD Reference Manual' was published as a Supplement to the European Journal of Dental Education available as an open on-line publication as a Supplement to the European Journal of Dental Education (www.dentcpd.org).

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/eje.2013.17.issue-s1/issuetoc>

Earlier this year in the UK, the regulatory body the General Dental Council (GDC), as part of their review of dental CPD, put out a 'call for information' on 'Quality of CPD in dentistry'. A link to this can be found at

[http://www.gdc-uk.org/Aboutus/policy/Documents/GDC%20Call%20for%20Information%20-%20CPD%20and%20Quality%20May%202013%20\(FIN\).pdf](http://www.gdc-uk.org/Aboutus/policy/Documents/GDC%20Call%20for%20Information%20-%20CPD%20and%20Quality%20May%202013%20(FIN).pdf)

There are concerns that there is no clarity on the quality of CPD courses/activities and evidence that they result in improved clinical care of patients. There would appear to be a need to establish how CPD is quality assured and by whom. Ideally, to promote mobility of dental professionals across the EU, the profession and the public would appreciate assurance that a CPD activity is of appropriate quality and the certificate issued, as a consequence of this, is sufficient to confirm that. Recognition, through appropriate certification, appropriately verified/accredited would benefit the dental professional and avoid duplication of CPD should they wish to work in a different country in the EU.

Questions to Consider in Preparation for and During the SIG ADEE 2013

- 1. How assured or concerned are you about the adequacy of the QA of dental CPD?**
- 2. What suggestions do you have about how the quality of CPD in dentistry can be adequately quality assured?**

For further information and consideration please see Attachment 1.

ADEE 2011 Special Interest Group: CPD Accreditation/Recognition

Special Interest Group discussion points:

- Q1 In your country is CPD officially recognised/accredited?
- Q2 How is this recognised/accredited?
- official certification?
- Q3 Who provides this accreditation?
- The regulator - the bodies/institutions recognised in that particular country as the appropriate body– who puts dentists on the dentists register
 - Dept of health or education,
 - Professional dental associations
 - Other organisation
- Q4 How is the period of learning recorded – Hours? Credits?
- How do hours relate to credits?

Background

- Educational accreditation is a type of quality assurance process which provides an external evaluation of educational institutions or programmes to determine if standards are met.
- If standards are met, accredited status is granted by the agency.
- Educational accreditation is typically conducted by a government organization, such as a ministry of education.
- Accreditation of CPD provision assumes that the CPD activity is fit for purpose and addresses the needs and requirements of the attendees.

- In the UK for example - the British Dental Association (BDA), state for their annual conference, that all sessions are 'approved for accreditation of CPD hours and comply with the General Dental Council's verifiable CPD requirements'.
- One might , therefore, assume that accreditation is in place

- However, the GDC itself **does not approve any education provider or course** for verifiable CPD (certified with CPD points). Rather, it **specifies the conditions which must be met in order for a CPD activity (GUIDANCE)** to be considered verifiable and thus appropriately certified (www.GDC-org).
- All four of the following conditions must be met:
 1. A certificate (or other type of documentary proof) that proves that the individual took part in the activity must be provided.
 - should document the number of hours spent by the individual on the activity.
 2. The activity must have 'concise educational aims and objectives'.
 3. The activity must have 'clear anticipated outcomes'.
 4. The activity must have 'quality controls'

- usually includes the opportunity for participants to give feedback, with a view to improving quality.
- The 'educational aims and objectives' and the 'anticipated learning outcomes' must be recorded on the certificate.
- The dental professional is responsible for deciding whether or not to count an activity as verifiable CPD.
 - Using professional judgement they are expected to decide whether or not the activity meets all four of the conditions for verifiable CPD.

Further information can be found in Appendix 2.

This contains relevant information from the DentCPD Project's survey: 'Continuing professional development systems and requirements for graduate dentists in the EU: survey results from the DentCPD project', which can be found – in the Dental CPD Reference Manual pp18-22, at:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/eje.2013.17.issue-s1/issuetoc>