

BAOMS Statement on Dentists Working in Medical Specialties (including OMFS).



25 October 2016

Following a letter from the NE Dental Dean raising the risk of 'scope of practice' proceedings for dentists working in a local OMFS unit, the issue of dentists working in medical specialties (including OMFS) has been raised with the General Dental Council (GDC).

The BAOMS Chair and Deputy Chair discussed our concerns, at length, in a face to face meeting and in subsequent e-mail correspondence with Janet Collins (GDC - Head of Standards) and Matthew Hill (GDC - Director of Strategy). They both said that they were unaware of any recent change in the approach of the GDC to dentists working in medical specialties in hospitals. They recognised this was an important area to clarify and have promised to draft advice, based around their existing standards.

Until the advice is available, the GDC supports dentists working within current 'custom and practice' in hospitals in medical specialties including OMFS. Attention was directed to standard 7.2.1 that as a dentist "You must only carry out a task or a type of treatment if you are appropriately trained, competent, confident and indemnified".

So BAOMS draws the attention of all dentists to the GDC document 'Standards for the Dental Team' <http://www.gdc-uk.org/Dentalprofessionals/Standards/Pages/standards.aspx> the contents of which are summarised as:

- 1 Put patients' interests first
- 2 Communicate effectively with patients
- 3 Obtain valid consent
- 4 Maintain and protect patients' information
- 5 Have a clear and effective complaints procedure
- 6 Work with colleagues in a way that is in patients' best interests
- 7 Maintain, develop and work within your professional knowledge and skills
- 8 Raise concerns if patients are at risk
- 9 Make sure your personal behaviour maintains patients' confidence in you and the dental profession.

Although all the standards apply, "Standard 6.3 You must delegate and refer appropriately and effectively" has details which are particularly relevant to those supervising dental trainees and "7.2 Work within your knowledge, skills, professional competence and abilities" to dentists working in hospitals.

When the statement from the GDC becomes available, it will be circulated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Davidson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mike Davidson – Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Magennis'. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large initial 'P'.

Patrick Magennis – Deputy Chair