



Newsletter: July 2008

On the 2nd July the Health Select Committee publishes its report on NHS dentistry. In February I attended one of the hearings to give evidence on the effect the new dental contract has had on dental laboratories.

Whilst I am realistic enough to understand the Department of Health is unlikely to reverse its decision to adopt the new contract with its perverse incentives I hope it will make some recommendations to make some complex dental treatment available again to NHS patients. The overall 50% reduction in laboratory items especially in Crown and Bridge and Cobalt Chrome has had a devastating effect on many laboratories with over 90 closing since the new contract. The change in volumes of work has meant we have had to look at the viability of our van rounds and we will need to make some changes to some of our van rounds by replacing some with postage/courier services. I am very sorry when there is a reduction of service but it is all about the cost, running a van service, especially with the very high fuel costs is very expensive. Of course we will give you plenty of advanced notice of any changes to our delivery service.

July 30th is the final day for registration of existing DCP's with the General Dental Council. All the technicians at Phoenix have applied for registration and the vast majority have now been completed. Since the guidance from the GDC that work all manufactured after this date should be by registered technicians or trainee technicians on a recognised course, you can be assured we are fully compliant with this requirement.

Those of you buying materials from Europe will have noticed the surcharges beginning to be charged on some materials especially alloys and investments; this coupled with higher carriage charges are now adding to everyone's costs. We will keep this situation under review and inform you before we make any price adjustment.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Smith".

David Smith



REGISTERED MEMBER