

Just to Let You Know

“I’m sorry I can’t tell you that...”

It often sounds as if we are being awkward and uncooperative, but we really are not able to give information about other family members or patient’s friends.

All medical and dental practices have to follow strict guidelines about patient confidentiality.

We have to make judgements about consent to treatment of a child. Generally up to the age of 12 years we would involve the parent at the outset in the discussion about an aspect of treatment, e.g. we would ask if it is OK to take x-rays. Over that age we tend to ask the child first and if they want an affirmation from their parent we will consult the parent.

If someone, who is not the parent, brings a child to the practice (nanny, childminder, grandparent) then we will need written consent from the parent for this person to agree to treatment or to be involved in the discussion about dental health.

Over the age of 16 years we will not discuss the treatment, attendance or dental health of a patient with anyone other than the patient without their consent. This also applies to elderly patients and their children.

We will not give information to schools, employers, police or any other official body unless we have the patient’s consent. This includes a “missing person” situation. The only exception to this would be if the information might help the police in a serious criminal investigation.

If students are happy for their parents to check on their last examination date and fix one for them in the holidays – then let us know and we will record the consent and allow parents to fix appointments.

It is a sad fact of modern life that children often do not live with both parents. If the parents were married when the child was born, then both parents have full parental responsibility. Hopefully both parents will agree to treatment or one will agree to the other making the health decisions.

If parents are not married when a child is born the father will not have automatic parental responsibility and cannot give consent to treatment.

Reception Hours

Mon /Tues / Thurs 8.15 am - 1.00 pm
2.00pm-5.00pm

Wed 8.15 am – 12.00
2.00 pm-8.00pm

Fri 8.15 am – 1.00 pm
2.00pm-4.00pm

(Sometimes closed on Friday PM)

Occasionally if we are short staffed there will be an answer phone – just leave a message and we will return your call.

“Certified!”

Christine passed the Certificate of Practice Appraisal in April this year, getting a distinction in her dissertation “Managing Change in the Practice Appraisal”.

Organised by the Faculty of General Dental Practice, the course looked at how a practice appraiser might help practices comply with the myriad of legislation and guidelines which affect small businesses in general and dental practices in particular. This included Health and Safety regulations, infection control, all employment, disability and data protection laws and the legal and ethical guidelines as instructed by the General Dental Council, relating to consent, confidentiality and record keeping.

The qualification will be useful for her role as mentor and assessor for the FFGDP(UK) - Fellowship in General Dental Practice and as tutor for dentists taking the Membership MFGDP exam.

Happily this practice would pass a practice appraisal – and has done so in the past on many occasions.

New Blue

We have gone blue. After months of procrastination about colour and fabric we have finally taken the plunge.....

.....the chairs in the waiting room have been re-upholstered!