Welcome to the SDPBRN Newsletter!

Welcome to the 8th issue of the Scottish Dental Practice Based Research Network (SDPBRN) newsletter. Once again it’s packed with updates on what’s happening at SDPBRN. There is news about the next SDPBRN Symposium which this year, is a joint event with NHS Education for Scotland’s CPD team here in Dundee on Friday, 13 November 2015—SAVE THE DATE!

Research activity as audit

In the last issue SDPBRN reported that participating in research can now count towards your audit hours. We are delighted to tell you about the success of the first research audit project - Evaluating the Safety Climate in NHS Primary Care Dental Practice in Scotland: Pilot Study. This project offered dental teams the opportunity to explore the safety climate in their practice by completing an online questionnaire, followed by a practice meeting to discuss the feedback from the questionnaire and was finalised with the submission of a reflective report from each of the dentists involved. Many of the participating dentists have now been certified with 3 hours research audit credit which can go towards a total of 5 of the 15 hours required within the 3-year cycle. We have further applications being considered by the Network. For more information visit our website at www.sdpbrn.org.uk

New publications

The latest publications from our researchers are available in the British Dental Journal:

Is further intervention required to translate caries prevention and management recommendations into practice? British Dental Journal 218, E1 (2015)

Managing patients on bisphosphonates: The practice and beliefs of primary care dentists before and after the publication of national guidance. British Dental Journal 217, E25 (2014) - This verifiable CPD publication was one of the top ten most viewed BDJ articles in December 2014 and January 2015.
TRiADs research for new SDCEP guidance

TRiADs researcher Catalina Martin has been carrying out research with dentists and patients to inform the development of new SDCEP guidance on the Management of Patients who are taking Anticoagulants or Antiplatelet Drugs and require Dental Treatment.

Sixteen dentists were interviewed about their current practice and the factors which may influence the management of patients taking these drugs. Dentists reported variation in confidence around managing this patient group, particularly patients taking the newer classes of drugs now available in the UK. Dentists working in rural areas reported having a good system of support to treat these patients, including: a close relationship with other healthcare professionals; fast access to tests or patient information; clear and helpful local guidance. The interviews highlighted dentists’ preferences towards the format and content of this guidance and perceptions of the patient’s responsibility and role in their dental care.

A patient questionnaire was posted on three patient support websites and distributed in anticoagulant clinics in NHS Tayside by the Scottish Health Council. While some patients reported a good experience of dental care whilst on these drugs others reported that their dentist appeared to lack awareness with regard to the newer drugs. Over 50% of patients want dentists to be more thorough when asking about their medical history and would like advice on oral health whilst on anticoagulants and what to expect after invasive treatment.

The dentists’ and patients’ views gathered by TRiADs have contributed to, and have been included within, the SDCEP guidance development process. Guidance was out for consultation from 9 February 2015 to 9 March 2015.

RAPiD: Can Audit and Feedback Reduce Antibiotic Prescribing in Dentistry?

The RAPiD cluster randomised controlled trial, conducted as part of the TRiADs programme, used national dental prescribing and treatment data to compare the effectiveness of individualised audit and feedback (A&F) interventions for the translation into practice of SDCEP recommendations on antibiotic prescribing.

Dentists from 795 general dental practices were included in the study and received feedback on their antibiotic prescribing rates during May 2013 – April 2014. The results demonstrated that the provision of A&F led to a 6% reduction in antibiotic prescribing rates. Extrapolated to all dentists in Scotland this represents a reduction of approximately 20,000 antibiotic items over 12 months.

Full details of the study can be found in the published protocol, www.implementationscience.com/content/9/1/50
Decontamination Into Practice guidance series

In October last year, SDCEP updated its Decontamination Into Practice guidance series, which now comprises:

Introduction—newly updated to reflect the progress that has been made in recent years.

Part 1: Cleaning of Dental Instruments—now up to date with current requirements for compliant local decontamination units.


Part 3: Managing Decontamination in Dental Practice—a new addition that introduces a

- Checklist to help assess your decontamination management policies, procedures and records, and
- Templates to compare with or to adapt to supplement your current documentation.

The Checklist and Templates are all accessed via SDCEP’s online Practice Support Manual www.psm.sdcep.org.uk

Appendices updated in October 2014 with the latest background information, contacts and references.

What is the best way to manage caries in the primary dentition?

The FiCTION (Fillings in Children’s Teeth: Indicated or Not?) study is a randomised controlled trial set in primary care to find out which is the most clinically effective and cost-effective method of managing carious primary teeth. The three approaches being compared are: conventional restorations; sealing in caries; and best-practice prevention alone.

The trial is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and led by the University of Dundee, with collaborating institutions throughout the UK. Currently 65 general dental practices are recruiting children to FiCTION, 22 of whom are based in Scotland. At the time of writing we have just welcomed participant number 1074. The clinical phase of the trial is due to finish in mid-2017 to allow a two to three year follow-up of all the children.

Special thanks go to all of the dental teams involved in the study. Without your exceptional efforts we couldn’t carry out this research and find the answer to a question that is important to children and parents, and affects dentists almost every practicing day.

The FiCTION team are currently working on a submission to SDPBRN for a trial-related research audit project to support FiCTION dentists in Scotland meet their clinical audit requirements.

If you would like further information please contact the team at fiction@dundee.ac.uk
Antibiotic Prescribing Guidance

SDCEP is planning a third edition of its popular Drug Prescribing for Dentistry guidance. The first edition of the guidance was published in 2008 with a second edition following in 2011. An iOS app was released in 2012. The guidance brings together dentally relevant information on prescribing from the British National Formulary and presents it in a readily accessible, problem-oriented style. SDCEP recently surveyed dentists, via the NES Portal, to find out their attitudes towards the prescribing guidance and to garner feedback on how they felt it could be improved. In total 295 general dental practitioners responded to the survey and most were very positive about the guidance, with one commenting “It is extremely useful - the bible of the subject for me”. Suggestions for improvements have been taken on board by the SDCEP team and the third edition of the guidance will be published in 2015.

SDPBRN Symposium 2015—SAVE THE DATE!

Following the success of last year’s SDPBRN Symposium Closing the gap: research for improvement and that of the Oral Cancer Symposium hosted by the NHS Education for Scotland’s CPD Team and drawing a huge audience of almost 200 delegates, we’ve decided to join forces and host a joint event on Friday, 13 November 2015 at the West Park Conference Centre, Dundee. This should prove to be a very exciting day with presentations on the use of anti-coagulants, drug prescribing and suturing. There will be ‘hands-on’ workshops in the afternoon along with presentations from Fellows of the Scottish Dental Postgraduate Fellowship. Registrations can be made via the NES Portal in the coming months so save the date in your diary and watch this space!

Become an SDPBRN REP!

Would you like the chance to use your expertise to inform important aspects of practice and policy? Would you like to be one of the first practitioners offered the opportunity to participate in SDPBRN research and policy related projects?

If yes, then why not become a Rapid Evaluation Practitioner with SDPBRN. Visit our website http://www.sdpbrn.org.uk/ to find out more and register your application.