

## Delivery of sensory dentistry to children with learning disabilities

The Healthy Child e-learning Programme (HCP) developed by Health Education England now includes advice on dental issues. The HCP is for all healthcare providers who treat children with learning disabilities and autism in special residential schools and colleges.

The dental advice included is thanks to the input of the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry's (BSPD's) secretary and Consultant in Paediatric Dentistry, Urshla (Oosh) Devalia, as well as Wendy Bellis, Honorary Clinical Senior Teaching Fellow at the Eastman Dental Institute.

Some children and young people can have sensory difficulties coping with dental treatment. They do not like the dentist to touch them and the noise and lights of dental practices can make them fearful. The new resource provides carers with advice and techniques for helping children cope with a dental appointment.

The HCP was first developed in 2017 for all health professionals working with pregnant women and children in the first five years of life. The new programme focuses on sensory health services.

Dr Devalia said the programme highlights the adjustments that need to be made to help young people with sensory issues manage in a dental environment. She said: 'Of all the healthcare appointments delivered to children with disabilities, dentistry is probably the most challenging. I am delighted that there is now advice for everyone involved in the care of this cohort of young people which will help them manage a dental appointment.'

<https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/delivering-sensory-health-services/>

## Updated learning programme on radiation safety

Health Education England e-Learning for Healthcare (HEE e-LfH) has worked in partnership with the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM) to update the e-learning programme on radiation safety for colleagues.

e-RADS supports the information, instruction and training required under Regulation 15(1) of the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR2017), which requires that colleagues who are not closely involved with work involving ionising radiations are to be provided with suitable information to avoid being unnecessarily exposed. It may also provide a useful introductory/refresher resource for trainees and colleagues working in departments using ionising radiations.

The programme identifies the importance of following the safety precautions that are in place to avoid being unnecessarily exposed and covers the basic principles associated with keeping their own exposure as low as reasonably possible.

Each session within the programme lasts approximately 20 to 30 minutes. The programme comprises the following topics:

- Radiotherapy, including external beam, brachytherapy and unsealed source therapy
- Diagnostic imaging using x-rays, including planar imaging and fluoroscopy
- Diagnostic and therapeutic nuclear medicine
- Interventional radiology and cardiology.

e-RADS was originally developed for national use, with the support of expert authors within the NHS. In 2020, the programme was revised and updated in partnership with the IPEM to reflect the requirements of IRR2017 and new technologies and techniques involving the use of ionising radiations in healthcare.

For more information and to access the programme, visit the e-RADS programme page: <https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Component/Details/393084>.