

General Dental Council Approves Faculty of General Dental Practice Diploma in Clinical Dental Technology

On 9th May 2006 the Education Committee of the General Dental Council approved and accredited the Royal College of Surgeons (England) - Faculty of General Dental Practice proposals regarding their proposals for a Diploma in Clinical Dental Technology.

For Clinical Dental Technicians this is a major step forward in progressing registration of the profession later in 2006.

The Diploma, to be known as DipCDT (RCS England), will only, at this stage, be awarded to holders of the Diploma from George Brown College in Toronto, Canada. Once the Royal College Diploma is awarded it will be recognised for registration with the General Dental Council.

In the future the Royal College Diploma will be available to any Clinical Dental Technician whose training meets the curriculum requirements set by the General Dental Council. This would include EU and overseas qualifications.

The General Dental Council has already announced it will recognise qualifications, for Clinical Dental Technicians, from the University of Utrecht (Holland) and The Royal Dental School Aarhus (Denmark) subject to assessment of the qualification. George Brown College has already reached agreement on equivalence of the Dutch and Danish qualifications with both institutions.

Those who hold the George Brown College Diploma are required to “top up” some of their training to meet EU and UK regulations as follows:

- Infection Control
- Health and Safety (UK Regulations)
- Radiography
- Law, Ethics and Professionalism (UK and GDC Legislation)
- Medical Emergencies
- Communication Skills;

And because Clinical Dental Technicians will be the only Dental Care Professional who can carry out some treatments without the patient having first seen a dentist – a “top up” in Oral Medicine, Oral Diagnosis and treatment planning.

Initially, this training will be provided through the KSS Deanery by way of blended learning, CD ROMs and home study with 3 two day modules and an assessment.

Registration forms have now been sent to all George Brown College Diploma graduates and the required courses are expected to begin, in the near future, to complete the requirements for registration with the General Dental Council.

It has been a long and arduous process in achieving this position but I expect to see the first registered Clinical Dental Technicians practising later in 2006.

It remains, for me, to thank all those who have been involved for the last decade in reaching this defining moment in our profession and look forward to a future where we are all recognised and respected as true professionals and valid members of the dental team.

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