

Happy holidays

Some dentists may be having a more relaxing time than others this summer, says Quentin Skinner

In the world of uncertainty that is the dental profession, one thing is for sure, and has certainly been the case of the last 20 years or so in my experience – at this time of year, it is almost impossible to get any decisions from dental practices as inevitably at least one key decision maker is away on holiday. This always seems to be the case, whether or not school holidays are an issue, as dentists – like the French – pack their bags and go away for August....

It is a time to go away and chill out, to forget the trials and tribulations of general dental practice, to have a break from the surgery, from dentist colleagues and the rest of the team, from NHS regulations and from the Care Quality Commission.

The challenge for many dentists, however, will be to put out of their minds the treadmill of achieving their UDA target, and to avoid the thought that, whilst away lying on a foreign beach in the sun, the meter has stopped ticking and the UDA numbers will have to be made up afterwards.



News comment

Quentin Skinner,
chairman of DPAS

Others who have based the funding of their practice on private fee-per-item charges will try not to reflect on the impact they have seen on their cashflow and profits, due to the drop in regularity of patient attendance during these recessionary times, and the fact that they too, whilst relaxing on holiday, are earning absolutely nothing to cover the standing overheads of their practice which carry on being incurred in their absence.

But, of course, there will be the satisfaction and peace of mind for those others who are slapping on the suntan cream or tucking into a good paella and a bottle of Rioja, who have based their practice business model on private dental plans. For them, the revenue comes in like clockwork, covering their wages bill, their premises costs, all of the overheads which relentlessly continue, and indeed the costs of the holiday itself.

How about another bottle, and then a siesta?

Happy days....