

PRESS RELEASE



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POOR RECORDS LEADS TO POOR DEFENCE, WARNS MDDUS.

Dentists must be wary of the need to keep accurate and up-to-date records in order to defend themselves against patients who increasingly seek compensation, warns the Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland (MDDUS).

The advice to give a new focus to treatment records comes following the publication of the revised edition of *Clinical Examination and Record-Keeping* by the Faculty of General Dental Practice.

The main alterations to the text update the areas of radiography, consent, and computerised records.

Andrew Hadden, dental adviser with the UK-wide MDDUS says: "In dento-legal claims, where patients seek compensation, the outcome can be severely hampered by the poor quality of record-keeping. This often jeopardises the situation and the dentist is immediately disadvantaged in defending the case."

MDDUS urges that dentists adopt the 'best practice' approach described in the book – by examining patients efficiently, provide realistic and relevant treatment options, carry out treatment to a high standard, and record all the information.

Hadden warns that all dentists should be aware of the benefits of keeping good records. "With increasing litigation, it has become more important for dentists to be able to defend themselves.

"A key to this is the examination of, and the treatment record of, a patient. The old adage 'poor records, poor defence; no records, no defence' is very apt."

Ends

For further information contact Colin Calder on 0141 616 2677 or 07850 510881.

Note to editors

MDDUS is a medical and dental defence organisation providing access to professional indemnity and expert medico- and dento-legal advice for doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals throughout the UK. For further information on MDDUS go to www.mddus.com.