

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **GDC TO SHARE INFORMATION ON REGISTRANTS, WARNS MDDUS**

The General Dental Council is set to start sharing information on dental professionals with the new regulatory body which has been set up to help prevent unsuitable people from working with children and vulnerable adults, warns the Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland (MDDUS).

The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) is now active as part of the changes in the law regarding the vetting and barring of paedophiles in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

MDDUS points out that as any dental professional changing jobs or starting work for the first time from July 2010 will be required to register with the ISA; this means that the GDC will have a legal obligation to share information about registrants with the ISA.

This is because the delivery of dental care is seen as a "regulated activity" under the new rules and therefore all those delivering dental care must be registered with the ISA in the long term.

Aubrey Craig, head of the dental division of the UK-wide MDDUS, says: "The GDC is currently being advised on what information it will have to share - but this could be potentially anything that indicates a registrant poses a risk to the identified groups.

"The GDC may also receive information from the ISA about its registrants. The Council has already decided that such information should not result in automatic erasure from the register, but should be considered as an allegation of impaired fitness to practise."

Craig adds: "The GDC will work closely with other groups with regard to its specific role but it is clear that this action further reinforces its remit of 'protecting patients'."

Scotland already has a system of disclosure for the checking of individuals to assess suitability to work with vulnerable groups.

Ends

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

### **Note to editors**

MDDUS is a medical 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](http://www.mddus.com).