

# PRESS RELEASE



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## COMPLY WITH HTM 01-05, OR ELSE! - WARNS MDDUS

Dentists are being urged by MDDUS to step up their efforts to comply with HTM 01-05, the health technical memorandum on decontamination.

The UK-wide dental defence organisation says that although HTM 01-05 has attracted a lot of coverage in the dental press, the complexity of the volume may have prevented some practitioners engaging with the process to ensure they comply with the requirements.

An added potential problem is that registration with the Care Quality Commission for practitioners in England and Wales from April 2011 looms on the horizon and the frightening prospect for dentists is that failure to comply with either could potentially mean closure and loss of income.

Aubrey Craig, head of the dental division at MDDUS says: "Irrespective if you stick your head in the sand and hope it all goes away; or you realise the problems but do nothing about it; or you grasp the bull by the horns and ensure full compliance - the reality is that compliance with HTM 01-05 will be costly in financial terms in the short and long term."

MDDUS says that thoughtful planning is the key to ensuring compliance and it is better to start early.

"Dentists should be fully cognisant of the timeframe involved with compliance. It is important that practitioners have carried out a realistic assessment of their premises and determined the availability of space for the work needed.

"Some may have to consider moving premises or undertaking substantial renovations, which might mean the loss of a surgery. For others they will have to assess the impact of HTM 01-05 in terms of work-flow and the carriage of instruments throughout the practice."

Craig adds: "What is important is that all dentists get started early and make decisions and choices with one eye on today but more important with the other on the future.

"Designs should incorporate computer terminals as well as the need to track and trace instruments in the future. Dentists must plan to ensure their money is well spent and work with designers and builders who know what they are doing."

MDDUS stresses that to ensure compliance, all practices with an NHS contract will be inspected by the PCT. But Craig warns: "Unfortunately variations between PCTs will exist and guidance will be questionable. Dentists should consult with their PCT prior to commencing any work."

## **Ends**

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

## **Note to editors**

MDDUS (Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland) 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](http://www.mddus.com).