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From the Chair It is a great pleasure to introduce the first Clinical Effectiveness Bulletin which has evolved from our former newsletter. This bulletin is the result of an enormous amount of work by Chris Deery and Peter Day.

The Policy and Clinical Effectiveness Committee has been a very successful Committee over the years, leading the initiation and development of a number of guidelines and policy documents. This year has seen the completion of two new guidelines. 'The use of General Anaesthesia in Paediatric Dentistry' will be a useful tool for those having to negotiate their services with Primary Care Trusts and other commissioning bodies. Our other new guideline 'Consent and the use of Physical Intervention in the Dental Care of Children' clarifies some of the confusion around consent for children and answers many questions concerning physical restraint for dental care. We also have a new policy document 'Dental Neglect in Children'. This is very helpful in the present climate when difficult questions are increasingly being asked of us by child protection teams about the role of untreated dental caries in cases of suspected child neglect.

New guidelines currently in production are 'Periodontal Diseases in Children', in collaboration with the British Society of Periodontology, and 'Oral Soft Tissue Lesions in Children'. Our guidelines and policy documents are informative and widely used and we are continuing to make them more robust and involve more people in their development. New ideas and volunteers to join guideline development groups are always welcome!

Deborah Franklin Chair, BSPD Clinical Effectiveness Committee

From the Editor I hope you have enjoyed this Bulletin. The overall aim was to promote audit within the specialty, and by sharing information, forms and results make our clinical audit more effective in promoting good practice. I encourage people from all aspects of paediatric dentistry to submit reports from their audit projects (see guidance to authors at http://www.bspd.co.uk/clinical.html). I would like to thank our referees, those who submitted audits and Peter Day for his support.

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