Call for Research and Development Bids September 2013

DEVELOPMENT OF A QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK FOR DENTAL CPD

COPDEND is calling for applications from experts in the field of medical and dental education to carry out a research and development project that will result in the production of a UK wide quality assurance framework and standards for continuing professional development. This should be applicable to CPD undertaken by all dental professionals (dentists and DCPs).

The Committee of Postgraduate Dental Deans and Directors (COPDEND) comprises all the Postgraduate Dental Deans and Directors in the UK. Postgraduate Dental Deans commission and manage the delivery of postgraduate dental education and training and they also have an interest in educational research.

There is little available material relating to guidelines or standards for the quality of continuing professional development for dental professionals, although there have been some related publications.

COPDEND has therefore decided to seek bids to develop a quality assurance framework that will be evidence based, deliverable and acceptable to the UK dental professions.

Scope of project:

Working with and under the guidance of a COPDEND steering group

- Systematically review national and international published material relating to quality schemes for CPD in healthcare.
- Audit current systems of Quality Assurance used by major providers of CPD in healthcare in the UK.
- Propose
  - CPD Provider requirements
  - CPD Recognition (verification/accreditation) processes
  - Quality Assurance criteria and standards
  - Guidance for dentists and DCPs when choosing CPD programmes
- Consult widely within the profession and stakeholders and develop a framework and standards for publication by COPDEND.
- Publish research findings in a peer reviewed journal.

It is anticipated that this project will be completed by the 31 December 2014.

Applicants should submit their applications in a Microsoft word format, including a completed application form, by email to the COPDEND Secretariat gail.fletcher@thamesvalley.hee.nhs.uk Before 9 a.m. 14 October 2013.
Projects will be screened by a COPDEND panel and those shortlisted will be invited to present their proposals in late November 2013.

Notes for Applicants

Applicants should complete and return the application form /tender documentation available on the COPDEND website:

(COPDEND Management of Directly Commissioned Projects Revised 2013)

Further information

COPDEND has recently published ‘Standards for Dental Educators’ (May 2013).


The General Dental Council has over the last two years been reviewing its mandatory CPD requirements and has commissioned and published research into the effectiveness of CPD.


The European DentCPD Project (www.dentcpd.org) has a ‘Reference Manual’ available as an open on-line publication


Short listed applicants will be sent full details about the next stage of the selection process 10 working days in advance of the date.

For further enquiries, please contact Gail Fletcher, telephone 01865 740623, email gail.fletcher@thamesvalley.hee.nhs.uk.