

The General Dental Council (GDC) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the Charter of Patient Rights and Responsibilities. The GDC is the organisation which regulates dentists, dental nurses, dental technicians, clinical dental technicians, orthodontic therapists, dental hygienists and dental therapists in the United Kingdom. As part of this role, we:

- register qualified professionals;
- set standards of dental practice and conduct;
- assure the quality of dental education;
- ensure professionals keep up-to-date;
- help patients with complaints about a dental professional;
- are working to strengthen patient protection.

In our responses to the Patient Rights (Scotland) Act 2011 consultations the GDC has expressed its support for the patient rights and health care principles stated. We also confirmed that the GDC's ethical guidance Standards for Dental Professionals, relates well to the Health Care Principles in the Patient Rights Bill.

Copies of our guidance can be downloaded from the Standards page on our website [www.gdc-uk.org/Dentalprofessionals/Standards/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.gdc-uk.org/Dentalprofessionals/Standards/Pages/default.aspx).

We are currently reviewing the Standards guidance we provide to registrants. The new version of the Standards will include guidance referring to registrants' responsibilities with regards to compliance with relevant legislation and will provide clear references to the Patient Rights Bill and supporting legislation and guidance.

In the section of the Charter of Patient Rights and Responsibilities which concerns complaints and raising concerns, you may wish to include a reference to the regulatory bodies responsible for the regulation of healthcare professionals. The GDC would be happy to for patients to be signposted to us in this section with regards complaints concerning dental professionals and you may also wish to provide details of the Dental Complaints Service for patients seeking resolution of complaints concerning private dental treatment. The focus in the document on early and local resolution where possible is something we would also fully endorse.

The GDC is keen to engage with the relevant bodies on the implementation of the Patient Rights (Scotland) Act 2011 and supporting legislation and guidance through our Director of Scotland.

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