# Practice Policy for Public Protection

## Policy Statement

The *[insert practice name]* is committed to ensuring the safety of its patients, and to encouraging all staff to raise any concerns about any behaviour, professional performance or practice that they think might endanger public safety.

## Responsibilities

Every member of staff has a responsibility to protect all patients. Reporting of staff performance that might endanger patient safety, commonly known as ‘whistleblowing’, is mandatory. In many cases, concerns will be able to be managed successfully within the dental practice, and staff are encouraged in the first instance to raise concerns with *[e.g. the Practice Manager, Principal Dentist]*. Staff should not feel uncomfortable about raising concerns, as all matters will be given due attention and treated in confidence.

If any member of staff has any queries about this policy, please contact *[e.g. the Practice Manager, Principal Dentist]*.

## Procedure *[amend, as appropriate]*

* If any staff member observes a dentist or any member of staff working in a way that could put patients at risk (e.g. under the influence of alcohol or drugs) or is unsure whether they should raise a concern either:
* Inform the principal dentist or practice manager in the practice

or, where this is not appropriate,

* Contact Public Concern at Work or the confidential alert line for Scotland:

**Public Concern at Work**3rd Floor, Bank Chambers

6-10 Borough High Street

London, SE1 9QQ

(Whistleblowing Advice Line UK): 020 7404 6609

Fax: 020 7403 8823  
Email UK advice line: [whistle@pcaw.org.uk](mailto:whistle@pcaw.org.uk)  
Website: [www.pcaw.org.uk](http://www.pcaw.org.uk)

Public Concern at Work is an independent authority on public interest whistleblowing that provides free, confidential advice to people who are concerned about crime, danger or wrongdoing at work.

**Confidential Alert Line for Scotland: 0800 008 6112**

The NHS Scotland Confidential Line for NHS employees provides an additional level of independent and external support and advice for staff should they have any concerns about how or whether to whistle blow.

* For more information see: Principle 8 Raise concerns if patients are at risk in the GDC’s Standards for the Dental Team.

(<http://standards.gdc-uk.org/pages/principle8/principle8.aspx>)

For help with dealing with dependency on drugs or alcohol, contact the Dentists’ Health Support Programme, which offers a confidential helpline, guidance and support to dentists who are in difficulty as a result of alcohol or drugs, eating disorders and other health issues.

Dentists’ Health Support Programme

Tel.: 020 7224 4671  
Email: [dentistsprogramme@gmail.com](mailto:dentistsprogramme@gmail.com)

[www.dentistshealthsupporttrust.org](http://www.dentistshealthsupporttrust.org)

Policy last updated: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date of next review: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The following staff have read and understood this policy *[include all team members]*.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Dental Team Member** | **Position** | **Signature** | **Date** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |