



PRESS RELEASE

No:10/2010

Date: 15th January 2010

GHA Dental Nurses achieve International Standards

The GHA's dental department continues to develop and improve the service delivered to all its patients. It is fundamental that such progress is underpinned by investment in its most valuable asset, namely its staff. The dental department identified the need to organise a dental nurse education programme that would recognise the skills already acquired, standardise these, underpin these skills with core knowledge and develop competencies further to a recognised national standard.

Eighteen months ago Dental Officers Emma Caetano and Gillaine Fearon developed the GHA's first Dental Nurse Education Programme. It was modelled on the equivalent programme in the UK and also included specially designed content which was delivered in lecture and study format and included an examination on each section on completion of the course. All aspects of dental nursing were covered ranging from Safety at Work and Infection Control to Specialties like Orthodontics and Oral Surgery.

The five members of the nursing staff that work in the Dental Department of the GHA have undergone this intensive programme. Kyrelle Busson, Patricia Cruz, Michelle Gomez, Lucinda Pitto and Lorraine Viales, all passed the final exams with marks in excess of 75%.

The Minister of Health and Civil Protection, Yvette Del Agua in congratulating the graduates said "this is another example of the Government's ongoing implementation of its Manifesto commitments in both Dental Health and training, and the staff's enthusiasm and desire to develop professionally".

In offering praise to both the students and their tutors Dr McCutcheon, Chief Executive of the GHA, noted that "once again the GHA has met or exceeded international standards for health care and this is yet another step in our programme of continuous improvement in high quality clinical care."

Note for editors:

The presentation of certificates will be held on Monday 18th January 2010 at the Boardroom in the Primary Care Centre where there will be a photo opportunity.