



Adverse Incidents in Orthodontics

Introduction

Back in the April 2006 issue of the BOS News, readers were informed that the Clinical Effectiveness Committee of the British Orthodontic Society had developed a reporting scheme in an attempt to more formally log, identify and review the various types of adverse incidents that can occur in orthodontic practice.

Following the initial pilot study undertaken in Yorkshire, a revised reporting form was developed. [This form is available on the BOS website as a download or for members to log events electronically.](#)

A wide range of adverse incidents may occur in orthodontic practice - from the very serious to the minor. Some of these incidents may be considered a part of routine orthodontic practice. Some may relate to a particular clinical method or to a specific type of material or make of instrument being used by an orthodontist. It is important for the orthodontic community, as a whole, to identify such clinical risks in our everyday practice and to alert the rest of the profession to these potential problems.

The participation of all BOS members will contribute to an overall improvement in clinical governance within our specialty by helping to minimise medico-legal risks to orthodontic specialists and, more importantly, by reducing potential risks that may befall our patients. Your contributions and involvement in this initiative would be greatly appreciated. In future, we will provide BOS members with a regular update of the findings through a bi-annual newsletter.

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