

## **Bitewing Audit**

### **Aims and Objectives**

An audit of bitewing radiographs to ensure the best possible clinical management for patients, with the objective of ensuring that radiographs are of the best possible standard and eliminating the need for re-exposure of the patient.

### **Suggested source material and references**

FGDP: "Standards in Dentistry" & "Selection Criteria in Dental Radiography".

BDA Advice sheet A11: Radiation in Dentistry - guidance notes for Dental Practitioners on the safe use of x-ray equipment, (NRPB/DH 2001).

Guidelines on Radiology Standards for Primary Dental Care, (NRPB 1994).

### **Proposed Standard**

70% or greater of all radiographs are of good or excellent diagnostic quality.

20% or less have only minor faults which do not detract from their diagnostic value.

10% or less are of such poor quality that they are of no diagnostic value.

### **Sample size**

Two (separate) prospective samples of 20 pairs of bitewing radiographs should be assessed using a light box (with appropriate changes made between cycles). The x-rays will be assessed and entered into one of the three categories identified above and the results recorded on data sheets and analysed on an Excel spreadsheet.

### **Results**

Results should be tabulated and can be shown graphically. A reject film analysis should be carried out and the effects of any changes discussed in terms of their effect on patient care. A date should be set for re-audit.

### **Outcome /Conclusion**

What changes, if any, did you make and why?

Did the audit have the desired outcome?