Link between Tobacco and Alcohol
Dear patient

This is to inform all our patients of a significant new health awareness campaign, we believe it is important to increase awareness and understanding of mouth cancer (sometimes called oral cancer) and the importance of screening for this disease.

As you may already know from reports in the national press, the incidence of mouth cancer is increasing throughout the general population. In the UK about 3,800 people get cancer of the mouth each year and over 1,700 of them will die of the disease. More, in face, than will die annually from cervical cancer of skin melanoma. Research has shown that people are at greater risk of disease if they:

- Are aged over 40
- Smoke and/or drink alcohol excessively
- Chew tobacco or use betel quid
- Have had any previous cancer of the throat or mouth

Dentists are trained and in the best position to spot early signs of the disease at routine check-ups. Like many cancers, early detection and treatment of mouth cancer is very important to ensure a successful outcome.

If you believe that any of the risk factors apply to you then you may wish to discuss annual screening at your next appointment.