News in brief

New site
A web-based online resource for dental professionals has been launched.

New chairman
The General Dental Council has appointed a new chairman.

Dentist fined
A dentist has been found guilty of professional misconduct.

Botox
A new technique for treating migraines has been developed.

Race for Life
The annual Race for Life in the UK has raised millions for Cancer Research UK.

New guidelines on antibiotics for ‘heart’ patients
Despite the widespread use of antibiotics to prevent infective endocarditis (IE), there has been ongoing debate about their efficacy.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has reviewed the evidence and issued new guidelines on antibiotic prophylaxis.

The guidelines state that antibiotics should not be used to prevent IE in low-risk patients who do not have structural cardiac defects.

However, they recommend antibiotic prophylaxis for high-risk patients, such as those with prosthetic heart valves or congenital heart defects.

The guidelines are based on a systematic review of the evidence and are intended to ensure that patients at high risk of infective endocarditis receive appropriate protection.

The guidelines have been welcomed by the British Dental Association (BDA), which has called for better communication between dental professionals and primary care physicians.

The BDA has also called on the government to ensure that patients at high risk of IE receive appropriate prophylaxis.

The guidelines are available on the NICE website: www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg64.