Endodontic instruments could transmit vCJD, say scientists

Scientists could not rule out the risk of the human form of 'mad cow disease' being transmitted by endodontic instruments, it has emerged. Guidance issued by the General Dental Council (GDC) revealed last month. It is urging dental care professionals to in-
crease by a third in 2008 when reg-
istration becomes compulsory un-
der the law.

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The annual fee paid by dental hygienists, therapists and techni-
cians will go from £24 to £60 next year, the General Dental Coun-
cil (GDC) revealed last month. It is urging dental care profession-
als (DCPs) who have not yet reg-
istered to act now and save money.

The GDC set the 2008 fee lev-
els for all those dental profes-
sionals required to register with them at a public meeting in Cardiff in September. All existing dental care professionals must register with the GDC by July 2008.

Since August 2008 more than 7,200 new DCPs have registered on top of the 6,510 already regis-
tered at the end of that year. Butte

The council said ‘thousands’ had yet to get their application forms in with less than a year before the dead-
line.

It is urging DCPs to send off forms as soon as possible to save money and ensure that they do not find themselves operating ille-

gally after the cut-off point. Those that register before January 2008 will pay the existing fee of £572 and will have no more to pay until their first annual retention fee is due in July 2009, the GDC has explained.

The message to dental nurses and dental technicians is clear—act now, pay the current lower fee and dental technicians is clear—act now, pay the current lower fee and dental technicians is clear—act now, pay the current lower fee and dental technicians is clear—act now, pay the current lower fee and dental technicians is clear—act now, pay the current lower fee and dental technicians is clear—act now, pay the current lower fee and dental technicians is clear—act now, pay the current lower fee and dental technicians is clear—act now, pay the current lower fee and dental technicians is clear—act now, pay the current lower fee.

Annually registration fees for the UK’s 55,800 dentists are also set to increase. They will go up by £18 to £438. This is a 4.3 per cent increase in line with inflation, the GDC said.

The GDC also announced it was introducing new annual charges of £52 a year for specialists dentists and a new £250 initial registration fee for some groups.

Endodontic reamers should be only be used once.