Dental Nurse Registration

Only 5,000 of the estimated 50,000 dental nurses in the UK are presently registered with the GDC. The council are subsequently extremely concerned that there will be a massive rush to register in June 2008, prior to the deadline of 30th July 2008.

There is now a simplified application form for dental nurses available from www.gdc-uk.org/Potential+registrant. Applicants can also call 0845 2224141 to request an application form. This replaces the application form dated July 2006.

With the new application form, there is no need for the dental nurse to be signed off by their General Medical Practitioner. The dentist who knows them can now confirm their fitness to practice. Evidence of immunisation for Hepatitis B and Tuberculosis is NOT required.

A dental nurse can apply for registration via qualification (NVQ or national certificate), 2 years experience with 6 key areas training completed, or 4 years full time experience. The application form guidance walks you through the requirements.

The total application should take no more than 30 minutes.

Once completed it should be sent to: Income Collection Team, General Dental Council, 37, Wimpole Street, London, W1G 8DG.

Alternatively, if the Dental Nurse is new to the profession, then registration can be applied for if they are signed up to a recognised training program. See www.gdc-uk.org for the dental nurse in training registration pathway.

The fee payable for registration is presently £72 and will cover registration until the renewal date of July 2009. If registration is applied for after December 2008 the fee will be £96.

The recommendation is to register your PCDs sooner rather than later.

Under the requirements of the compulsory professional development (CPD) scheme, all dental care professionals (DCPs) will need to complete and record 150 hours of CPD every 5 years - 50 hours of which should be verifiable. The verifiable CPD should include the 3 core subjects; medical emergencies (10 hours per cycle), disinfection and decontamination (5 hours per cycle) and radiography and radiation protection (5 hours per cycle).