



Endodontic Instrument Advice

You have been advised that you require root canal treatment in order to save your tooth. Your dentist needs to use very fine instruments to clean the inside of the root canals. The dental profession received guidelines from the Chief Dental Officer for England (dated April 2007) concerning these instruments and the potential risk of contamination from variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD). All dentists have been strongly advised not to reuse these instruments because the prions associated with the vCJD are particularly resistant to decontamination.

With this recommendation, Manor Dental Practice will dispose of endodontic instruments which come into contact with the nerve tissue inside of the root canals, after each patient. Due to the high costs this will incur, the Practice will pass on the costs to the patient. The extra fee charged will be clearly identified and treated as a stock item, without incurring a profit margin.

Manor Dental Practice has scrupulous sterilization procedures, with disposable products used wherever possible. We are always happy to answer any queries you may have with regard to this very important aspect of our Practice.

As a point of interest, no known cases of vCJD have been linked to dental treatment. Research has shown that the risk associated with dental procedures is extremely low. These guidelines are considered as precautionary and considered justified because of the large numbers of root canal treatments carried out. Our patients will be kept updated should these guidelines changed.

UPDATE: 2012- although guidelines do allow for re-use of these instruments on the same patient, onerous sterilisation and storage guidelines make this impractical therefore new instruments will be used for each root canal procedure.