



# Contact

Dentist & Certified Dental Assistant Fax Bulletin

## Your Practice Licence Expires February 28

Make sure you're legally entitled to practise by renewing your licence before the March 1, 2005 deadline. If the College has not received your payment by the due date, your licence will be considered void. By law, you are not permitted to engage in the practice of dentistry or certified dental assisting, as appropriate, until the renewal fee has been paid. Late payments will also be subject to a penalty fee.

You should receive your renewal package within the next one to two weeks. It is your responsibility to make sure the College has your current mailing address. The package also includes a new Information Consent Form as a requirement under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Please ensure you return the completed form with your renewal.

## Mistaken Identity

Dentists, please include your College registration number on all your prescriptions to make sure the dispensing pharmacist can properly identify you. Hard-to-decipher signatures and the similarity of names between some prescribers can make it difficult to attribute prescriptions to the right dentist.

## CDA Position on Council

The College's CDA Advisory Committee has formed a CDA Council Member Election Working Group to review alternatives and make recommendations on a democratic process that will provide Council with a CDA member. Because the Group requires adequate time to research the subject, the CDA Council position for 2005 will be appointed, with the Working Group recommending a suitable process for the 2006 Council year.



## Infection Control

Winter always seems to bring its share of colds, flus and other infectious illnesses. This is a good time to ensure that your dental office personnel are adequately trained in infection control and are current in their knowledge of procedures and equipment operation. Infection control procedures should be applied on a routine basis in the office and will help to protect patients and dental office personnel from cross infection.

## Are you Covered?

After regular office hours, it is your responsibility to provide patients who need emergency treatment with an alternative means of contacting you, or another dentist if you are unavailable. The Rules under the *Dentists Act* and the Code of Ethics also require that all dentists must provide emergency dental treatment to any member of the public or must make arrangements for treatment to be provided.

## Read all About It...

Highlights from the December 10 Council meeting are now available on the College website at [www.cdsbc.org](http://www.cdsbc.org) under "College Publications: Communications Points." Expect your winter issue of *Sentinel* in early February. The cover story features an overview of the complaints process from a registrants' point of view.

## Contact for Referrals

A reminder that the B.C. Dental Association (not the College) offers a service that provides the public with the names of dentists and specialists accepting new patients. Patients can contact the Association by phone at 604 736-7202 (toll free 1 888 396-9888) or visit the "Find a Dentist" page at [www.bcdental.org](http://www.bcdental.org).

## Comments and Suggestions

Feedback or suggestions for upcoming issues can be made to **Margot White**, Manager of Communications, CDSBC at **604 736-3621** in the Lower Mainland or toll-free at **1 800 663-9169**. If you would like to receive *Contact* by email or to unsubscribe, please phone or email [margot@cdsbc.org](mailto:margot@cdsbc.org).