



Contact

Dentist & Certified Dental Assistant Fax Bulletin

YOUR COLLEGE IS LISTENING

Feedback About Emergency Dental Care

The self-regulation of dentistry affords us considerable autonomy, powers and privileges. At the same time, it carries significant responsibility and high expectations for the delivery of care.

As noted in the winter issue of *The Sentinel*, the College has recently received concerns from the public about the unavailability of emergency dental care. We are pleased that the *Sentinel* article generated feedback from registrants.

It is apparent that there is a range of circumstances in which the provision of emergency care and after-hours coverage may not necessarily be easy to arrange or deliver. Registrants have expressed concerns that expectations for 24/7 emergency coverage are unrealistic. Dentists' professional responsibility to manage emergencies can be satisfied in a variety of ways. One example is to refer to a community dental emergency service, such as has been established by the Victoria and District Dental Society.

Council discussed the subject of emergency care at its recent meeting. The outcome of that discussion is a commitment by the College to explore this issue in more detail over the coming months in order to proactively address the concerns that have been raised by registrants and the public. This process will include identifying potential implications to do with emergency dental care in transitioning from our Rules to bylaws under the *Health Professions Act*.

Specifically, the College plans to

- work with the profession to identify specific causes that make it difficult to provide emergency care,
- identify a range of models used by dentists in communities across B.C. to provide after hours and emergency coverage,
- liaise with registrants as well as organizations, institutions and government about how best to address the subject in order to help dentists fulfill their obligations to provide emergency care as specified in the *Dentists Act*, and



Emergency Dental Care, cont.

- communicate with you about our progress and findings.

Dental Clinic at College Place

The Working Group established by Council and led by Dr. Susan Chow to consult stakeholders on the ownership, operation and all future directions of the Clinic is proceeding with its task. The Working Group plans to distribute a questionnaire within the next few weeks to all study clubs in order to solicit their views.

Written input from College registrants will assure the Working Group and Council that they have the information they need in order to make informed decisions about the future of the Clinic.

If you have specific questions or comments, please direct these to Jane Faulafer who is the College staff member assigned to support the Working Group. Reach Jane by email at jane@cdsbc.org or by phone at 604 736-3621, toll free at 800 663-9169.

Pacific Dental Conference

College staff and Council members were pleased to participate in this year's Pacific Dental Conference. Our booth, our annual awards dinner and our workshop presentation were excellent opportunities for us to connect with our registrants from communities across B.C. Your comments and feedback are important to us and make a significant difference to our ability to effectively regulate dentistry. You are, in fact, a vital contributor to the evolution of our organization.

We were pleased that various people we spoke with recognized the College's ongoing evolution. As PDC presenter, lawyer George Cadman said in his workshop about registrants who have received a complaint from the College, "there have been changes for the better since 2001." He added that the concerns of five to 10 years ago about due process no longer exist.

Watch for the spring issue of Sentinel in April and learn more about the College's complaints process, record keeping and the role of the newly formed CDA Advisory Committee.

Contact by Email

Contact **Margot White**, Communications Manager at **604 736-3621** or toll-free at **1 800 663-9169** (margot@cdsbc.org) to receive *Contact* by email or to unsubscribe.