



# Contact

Dentist & Certified Dental Assistant News Bulletin

## PLEASE POST: SCOPE OF PRACTICE REGULATIONS

This bulletin is part of our ongoing communications with you about the transition of the regulation of dentists and CDAs from the current *Dentists Act* and Rules to the *Health Professions Act* (HPA).

The Government has recently released and posted proposed Regulations for the profession of Dentistry for a 90-day public consultation period, giving dentists, CDAs and others the opportunity make comments. These Regulations outline use of title and the scope of practice for dentists. The deadline for providing feedback is February 21, 2007.

Our website ([www.cdsbc.org](http://www.cdsbc.org)) includes links to the proposed Regulations as well as more details about how to provide feedback. If you do not have Internet access, please contact Karen England at the College for assistance.

This issue of *Contact* provides an overview the main components of the HPA and the Regulations for Dentistry.

### Components of HPA

The three main components involved in dentists and CDAs being regulated under the *Health Professions Act* are:

- 1. Act** – the Act is umbrella legislation that provides a common regulatory framework for health professions in B.C. Changes made to the Act affect all professions regulated by the Act.
- 2. Regulations** – Regulations are created by government for each individual health profession governed under the Act. Each regulation contains a scope of practice statement and a set of reserved actions that outline what members of that profession are authorized to do.
- 3. Bylaws** – each regulatory College has its own bylaws. The bylaws set out the details of the operation of the organization, including the duties and responsibilities of a governing board, committees and the registrar; qualifications for registration; and the regulation of professional conduct and ethics. College Council recently approved draft Bylaws and submitted them to government for review. As with the Regulations, Government will post the proposed Bylaws for a 90-day consultation period before they are approved.

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## About the Regulations for Dentistry

The Regulations focus on use of title, scope of practice and reserved actions.

### *Scope of Practice*

Scope of practice statements are the concise descriptions, in broad, non-exclusive terms, of each regulated profession's activities and areas of professional practice. Each College also has authority to set standards, limits and conditions on the professional's practice within this scope of practice.

### *Reserved Actions*

Reserved actions are a narrowly defined list of invasive, higher risk activities that must not be performed by any person in the course of providing health services, except members of a regulated profession that has been granted specific legislative authority to do so, based on their education and competence. The same reserved actions may be granted to more than one profession.

At the same time that the Regulations for dentists were posted for comment, a Master List of reserved actions was also posted. The Master List outlines all of the activities that only a qualified health care provider can undertake. It describes each reserved action according to the type of activity that poses the greatest risk to the public. Individual professions are then granted all, a part or none of each reserved action.

Health care activities or procedures that are not found on this master list are not considered to be reserved actions and may theoretically be performed by any person. An example of a professional activity that is not a reserved action is counselling patients regarding health care needs.

### *Reserved Actions for Dentists*

The reserved actions that have been granted to dentists are listed in a table on page three of the Regulations. In order to read and understand the reserved action list for dentists, the Master List must be referred to. Some reserved actions have been granted to dentists in their entirety and others are limited to the "orofacial complex" or "orofacial complex and associated structures". There is also the general assumption that dentists, like all professionals, will only perform reserved actions to the extent that they are personally competent to carry out.

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