

Board Highlights 23 February 2013

Board Highlights are an unofficial summary of the open portion of CDSBC Board meetings. Official records can be found in the minutes, which are posted after they are approved at the following Board meeting.

Publication of Complaints and Discipline Outcomes

The publication of the outcome of the complaints and discipline process is one of the key ways for a regulator to demonstrate transparency and maintain public trust. Following a workshop on this topic in December, the Board approved recommendations from a discussion paper. These recommendations will form the basis of a new publication policy for CDSBC.

The key points are:

- CDSBC will continue to publish the names of disciplined registrants in circumstances prescribed by the Health Professions Act (HPA). (Mandatory disclosure is reserved for the most serious disciplinary measures, such as when a discipline hearing has found misconduct or incompetence, or when limits or conditions are imposed on the practice of a registrant.
- CDSBC retains discretion to disclose beyond what the HPA requires. The HPA will be the starting point – not the end point – for the publication of complaints and discipline matters:
- For matters that are not considered serious as defined by the HPA, the registrant's name will not normally be published.
- CDSBC will publish trends in complaints anonymously. Providing examples of conduct that attracts regulatory intervention will help to educate registrants. It will also demonstrate to the public that serious complaints are dealt with appropriately, and that trivial ones are dismissed.
- The website will be the primary medium for publication.
- A statistical summary of all complaints received will be published annually.

The final publication policy will be available on the website and incorporated into CDSBC's Bylaws after approval by the Board.

This approach is in keeping with public and government expectations about access to complaints and discipline information. It is also consistent with the trend towards increasing transparency and disclosure among self-regulated professions within Canada and internationally.



Advertising and Promotion Workshop

The College receives a significant amount of correspondence from dentists about the advertising practices of other dentists. The current process is for staff to follow up on problem advertising to encourage compliance with CDSBC's Guidelines for Promotional Activities.

This is an area of interest for dentists as well as the public. Advertising standards have evolved and so has the way in which the College responds to them. CDSBC held a Board Workshop looking closely at promotional activity and advertising by dentists. It was led by Oleh Ilnyckyj, LIB, and his team from Miller Thomson Vancouver, and attended by the CDSBC Board, the Ethics Committee, senior CDSBC staff, and representatives from the British Columbia Dental Association.

As a follow up from the workshop, the College plans to clarify its bylaws and will continue to collaborate with the British Columbia Dental Association to provide guidance to dentists on this topic. In the meantime, the College is changing the way it responds to concerns about advertising by dentists as follows:

- Anyone who wants the College to take action in response to advertising by a dentist must submit a formal, signed complaint. As with all other complaints, the respondent will receive a copy of the complaint. The College will no longer respond to anonymous concerns about advertising by dentists.
- To make it easier to submit a complaint, an online form is being developed that will ask users to explain their concerns, and outline how, in their view, the advertising does not conform to CDSBC's guidelines.
- The College will investigate complaints about advertising that is false, inaccurate, unverifiable, misleading to the public, or is contrary to the best interests of the public. These are the same principles that will be applied when the College updates its Bylaws on advertising and promotion.

Minimal and Moderate Sedation Services in Dentistry (Non-Hospital Facilities) Guidelines

Dr. David Sowden and Dr. Michael Henry of the Sedation and General Anaesthetic Services Committee presented the draft guidelines on Minimal and Moderate Sedation Services in Dentistry (Non-Hospital Facilities). These guidelines have been years in the making and represent hundreds of hours of work by committee members and staff, both reviewing similar guidelines in other jurisdictions and in writing the document.

This document represents what the Committee believes are the best practices published by other regulators and associations, including the Royal College of



Dental Surgeons of Ontario and the American Dental Association. The changes contained in the Minimal and Moderate Sedation Services in Dentistry (Non-Hospital Facilities) Guidelines – Draft are intended to improve public safety.

The Sedation and General Anaesthetic Services Committee recognizes that if adopted, the new Guidelines will impact the resources required, both by dental offices that offer sedation, and by the College that must administer the program and provide appropriate inspection of offices. The Committee's position is that these changes are in keeping with CDSBC's mandate of protection of the public.

The Board approved the draft guidelines on Minimal and Moderate Sedation Services in Dentistry (Non-Hospital Facilities) for public consultation.

- [Read more about the key changes that are proposed in the new guidelines and how to submit feedback](#) (pubic consultation period closes June 5, 2013)
- Read [CDSBC's Minimal and Moderate Sedation Services in Dentistry \(Non-Hospital Facilities\) Guidelines - Draft](#)

Sleep Apnea Guideline

The Board approved the Sleep Apnea Guideline – Draft for consultation. The Guideline was submitted to the Board through the Quality Assurance Committee and presented to the Board by the lead author, Dr. Fernanda Almeida of the UBC Faculty of Dentistry.

The guideline is very accessible at 8 pages, and it clearly outlines the role of the dentist in the treatment of obstructive sleep apnea with oral appliances.

A key point in the Sleep Apnea Guideline is that it is not the dentist's role to screen for sleep apnea, and that patients who complain of snoring should be referred to a physician so sleep apnea can be ruled out.

- Read [CDSBC's Sleep Apnea Guideline - Draft](#)

National Dental Examining Board Presentation

Dr. Jack Gerrow, Registrar of the National Dental Examining Board (NDEB), gave a presentation on the NDEB equivalency process for internationally trained dentists who have graduated from non-accredited dental programs. Non-accredited programs are undergraduate dental programs from universities that have not been recognized through the NDEB's approved process or through a formal reciprocal agreement with another country.



Dr. Gerrow described the challenges faced by the NDEB in evaluating dental programs in different parts of the world. He described how the NDEB's process for evaluating internationally trained dentists has changed in recent years, in part because of domestic trade agreements that promote labour mobility between provinces.

Dr. Gerrow shared some of his experiences of reviewing dental programs in other countries, and gave an explanation of the NDEB equivalency process to become certified as a dentist in Canada.

Governance Working Group

The Governance Working Group was established to support CDSBC's new governance process. It provides oversight of the College, and is responsible for recommending approaches that support good governance, as well as policies relating to human resources.

The composition of the working group was updated to include five members: the Vice-President, the Treasurer, at least one public member of the Board, and two additional Board members. Current members of the Governance Working Group are Dr. David Tobias (Chair), Dr. Erik Hutton, Ms. Melanie Crombie, Mr. Rick Lemon and Dr. Kerim Ozcan.

The Governance Working Group will become the Governance Committee after the Bylaws are updated.

Update to Schedule F – Fees

The Board approved CDSBC's fee schedule for the 2013/14 year. The certification fee for non-practising certified dental assistants was reduced from \$65 to \$60 to reflect 50 per cent of the cost of a full year of certification.

- Read [CDSBC's Fee Schedule \(Schedule F\)](#).

Registrar's Report

Registrar Jerome Marburg submitted a written report to the Board with updates on various CDSBC activities, including the launch of online renewal for dentists and CDAs; training for the Discipline Committee; a planned upgrade to the College website; and an update on the course that the College is preparing to help registrants reduce the likelihood of receiving a complaint.



You can read a copy of the Registrar's report to the Board [here](#).