



College Update

Health Professions Act

On April 3, 2009, the *Dentists Act* was rescinded and CDSBC was brought under the *Health Professions Act*. This means that dentists and CDAs are now regulated under the same umbrella act as all other health professionals in B.C. In general, the transition to the *Health Professions Act*, Dentists Regulation and CDSBC Bylaws has minimal impact on dentists and CDAs in daily practice. There are some key changes, however, that dentists and CDAs should be aware of. The following points are highlights only; for more information visit www.cdsbc.org.

• Continuous Practice requirement:

To maintain practising status, dentists must have undertaken at least 300 hours of practice between 2007 and February 28, 2010. Practising CDAs must have worked 200 hours during that timeframe.

For renewal in 2011, practising dentists and CDAs need to fulfill the continuous practice requirement as written in the Bylaws: 900 hours for dentists and 600 hours for CDAs (for the years 2008-10).

If the continuous practice requirement has not been met, dentists and CDAs have the option to switch to non-practising registration/certification. If they wish to return to practice, they may submit a proposal to the Registration Committee or the CDA Certification Committee outlining what they propose to do to ensure their competency. This might include successful completion of an exam,

course or other approved education, and/or clinical mentorship. The Committees will approve proposals on an individual basis.

- **Duty to Report:** Dentists and CDAs are obligated to report any regulated person who there is reason to believe is not competent to practice or is suffering from an ailment (physical or mental), emotional disturbance or addiction that puts the public at risk. This obligation extends to all professionals regulated under the HPA.
- **Patient Relations:** Under the HPA, the Board must establish a patient relations program to seek to prevent professional misconduct, including professional misconduct of a sexual nature. The Bylaws are very clear that dentists and CDAs may not have any relationship of a sexual nature with a patient. This includes touching, behaviour or remarks of a sexual nature.

The College is in the process of updating all of our forms and documents to reflect the new legislation.

CDA Services

Under the CDSBC Bylaws, the role that a certified dental assistant plays is no longer guided by a simple list of duties; instead, CDAs perform "services" as delegated or authorized by a dentist. These services are based on restricted activities under the HPA Regulations. Both the CDA and the dentist must be confident that the CDA has received the necessary training and education and is fully competent in each service they perform.

The new continuous practice requirement confirms dentists and CDAs are current in their practice in order to work in B.C.

Quality Assurance

There are no significant changes to the CE program or the number of credits dentists and CDAs must obtain during a three-year cycle. The CE Requirements document was updated and distributed to all dentists and CDAs this summer. Our objective was to promote better understanding about what types of learning are eligible for credit. The Quality Assurance Committee continues to work on developing more flexible means to promote ongoing learning.

Complaints Update

The complaints team continues to resolve complaints through a fair process involving negotiation and a focus on remediation rather than punishment whenever possible. The primary focus remains on protection of the public. There is even greater Committee oversight of the process under the HPA. In addition, tighter timelines have been put in place and a complainant or respondent may write to the Health Professions Review Board (HPRB) if they have concerns regarding the investigation of a complaint.

Continued...

We are currently recruiting for a Director of Complaints to administer the CDSBC's complaints process within the regulatory framework of the *Health Professions Act*, CDSBC Bylaws and Regulations.

College Place Building

An engineer's report on the structure of College Place in Vancouver determined that we need to do work to protect the external structure of the building and to prevent future damage. This project is underway. We are working with an architect to provide a more modern visual look for this 1980s-style building at the same time as the necessary improvements are undertaken. CDSBC owns 70% of the building and has been able to finance the project with reserved funds without any additional cost to dentists and CDAs.

The College expects dentists to be aware of current standards and the latest health information – including precautions for H1N1 – that may impact the provision of dental treatment.

Reminder: Criminal Record Re-check from A to J

All current and new registrants of professional regulatory bodies are required to undergo a criminal record re-check every five years. In 2009 it involves dentists and CDAs whose surnames begin with the letters A to J and who have not been checked in the previous five years. If you received

a criminal record re-check package and have not yet returned it to CDSBC, this is a reminder that the deadline is November 30, 2009.

Dentists and H1N1

The College expects dentists to be aware of current standards and the latest health information – including precautions for H1N1 – that may impact the provision of dental treatment.

Dentists are expected to use their professional judgment and expertise as healthcare professionals to ensure the safety of their employees, their patients and themselves. This is especially important in the rare case where a patient who may have H1N1 also requires emergency dental treatment.

Visit www.cdsbc.org/H1N1 for more information.

Internationally Trained Dentists – Funding and Project Update

All 10 provincial regulatory bodies have agreed on the principles and criteria to be used as the basis for developing a national process for the assessment of internationally trained general dentists. This project is to be carried out under the direction of the Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation (CDRAF). CDRAF has applied to the federal government for funding for this project.

Communications

Representatives from the College have led a number of face-to-face communications this year. Highlights include:

- *Tough Topics for Dentists: Challenges in Practice* at the Pacific Dental Conference.

- CDA Services presentation at the Thompson Okanagan Dental Society meeting and to CDA educators.
- Regular visits to UBC Faculty of Dentistry, dental component societies and CDA schools.

We also re-launched our website to coincide with the transition to the *Health Professions Act*. Another communications project underway this fall is the redesign of the CDSBC logo to better reflect the modern and professional character of the organization.

Financial Update

The CDSBC's financial position continues to be strong. Renewal fees have either remained the same or been decreased for several years now. Building repairs and upgrading are being completed without any additional cost to dentists and CDAs.

Infection Control

CDSBC has partnered with the College of Dental Hygienists of BC to develop common guidelines for infection control for the dental profession. This initiative will be led by the Joint Infection Control Working Group, made up of representatives appointed by each college. The BCDA is contributing to the process by reviewing existing guidelines, including those in place in other jurisdictions. The ultimate objective is to create realistic, scientifically based guidelines that are based on a high-level assessment of existing documents by an expert group.

Next Board Meeting

The next public meeting of the CDSBC Board is Saturday, December 12, 2009 in the Garibaldi Room at the Four Seasons Hotel in Vancouver.

