



Contact

NEWS BULLETIN

November 1, 2013

New Promotional Activities Bylaws and Guidelines Posted for Consultation

The issue of advertising and promotion by dentists has become increasingly important, as evidenced by the number of complaints that CDSBC receives on this topic. The vast majority are informal complaints made by dentists against other dentists. The College intends to update the bylaws for promotional activities, specifically Bylaws 12.02 and 12.05, along with a new set of interpretive guidelines for registrants. These have been posted for public consultation until January 31, 2014.

The overarching objective of this bylaw change is to provide firmer ground on which to stand when taking enforcement activities, and to focus on those instances where CDSBC could reasonably take action, recognizing Charter rights and obligations and changing social mores.

More information about the proposed bylaws and guidelines – and instructions for submitting feedback – can be found [here](#).

Illegal Dentists

CDSBC's investigation of the fake dentist Tung Sheng (David) Wu has prompted unprecedented media and public interest. From a legal perspective, this case has concluded with the BC Supreme Court finding of contempt against Mr. Wu and a sentence *in absentia* to three months in jail.

The Court also awarded special costs to CDSBC in recognition of the fact that the investigation was carried out by the College and not at taxpayers' expense. As has been reported, the costs associated with investigating and prosecuting this matter have reached in excess of \$100,000. Unfortunately, Mr. Wu remains at large. All of CDSBC's statements about the Wu case, the judge's decision and a video that features a timeline of events and highlights of the media coverage are available [here](#).

The College is currently taking action against other suspected illegal dentists operating in the Lower Mainland. The Court files for two of those cases are currently sealed to protect the integrity of the investigation, but CDSBC will apply to have the files unsealed, at which time the evidence will become public.



Avoiding Complaints Workshop Coming to Victoria

The number of complaints against dentists continues to rise. To learn how to reduce your chances of receiving a complaint, sign up for CDSBC's workshop ***Avoiding Complaints: Using Records and Communication to Build Professionalism and Safeguard Your Practice***. The workshop includes an open Q&A session and is eligible for three CE credits.

Join us at the Avoiding Complaints workshop in Victoria from 5-9 pm on Wednesday, November 20. For more information and to register, go [here](#).

The next presentation of the Avoiding Complaints workshop will be Friday, January 31 at the Fraser Valley Dental Society Meeting. Please register through the FVDS.

Dental Therapists Update

There is a significant change in our provincial healthcare system with the transfer of responsibility for First Nations healthcare from Health Canada to the new First Nations Health Authority (FNHA). As part of this change, the Board has approved amendments to the CDSBC Bylaws to allow for the regulation of dental therapists.

This initiative, while exciting, is very limited, affecting only between 8-13 full-time positions. The intent is simply to accommodate the transfer of authority from Health Canada to the FNHA and there is no expansion of the role of dental therapists in general. Dental therapists will be permitted to provide dental services only if they are employed by the FNHA.

Dental therapists will work under the supervision and direction of a CDSBC-registered dentist. Their scope of practice is in development.

Our Purpose, Your Safety

For the public, the stories about illegal dentists – including the health risk they present – illustrate the need to ensure your dentist is qualified, registered and accountable.

BC's health regulators have launched a public awareness campaign that features the tagline "Our purpose, your safety." The campaign delivers a common message about which health professions are regulated, why it is important to ensure that your health professional is registered/licensed, and who to contact with concerns about the care you receive.

The campaign features transit shelter ads in 90 locations around the province, as well as TV closed-captioning ads and advertising in ethnic media. It will also include a simple website (www.bchealthregulators.ca) posters, articles and ads in community papers, and limited social media. Some materials will be delivered in multiple languages.



Document Management Moves Front and Centre

While the need to improve CDSBC's information and document management processes had already been identified by management and reflected in our new strategic plan, it was brought into clear focus by the Tung Sheng Wu case. Specifically, when the College learned that we had obtained an injunction against Mr. Wu in 2003, we were unable to locate all the relevant files, a situation that was clearly unacceptable.

The Board has agreed that CDSBC's document retention and data management systems, policies and procedures must be modernized. For the next 12-18 months, the College will concentrate on this issue above all others – with the exception of the core regulatory functions (registration and complaint resolution).

Minimal and Moderate Sedation Guidelines Update

CDSBC received great feedback on the proposed revisions to the *Draft Minimal and Moderate Sedation Services in Dentistry (Non-Hospital Facilities) Guidelines*. All feedback was collated into a response matrix and is being considered by the Sedation and General Anaesthetic Services Committee. We anticipate that a final document will be tabled at or before the May 2014 Board meeting.

Electronic Patient Records

The College is receiving an increasing number of questions about whether and how patient information can be stored and shared electronically. CDSBC's existing *Dental Recordkeeping Guidelines* offer a limited amount of guidance on the topic. The Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario has recently published a comprehensive document on electronic recordkeeping and has permitted CDSBC to use their document as the foundation for a new CDSBC guideline.

CDSBC Handling of Health Files

The way in which the College handles health-related matters, such as addiction or mental illness, continues to evolve away from a complaint/discipline perspective and more towards a health and remedial perspective. While CDSBC has historically strived to deal with these matters as sensitively as possible, we are now armed with a better understanding of the disease that is addiction and are more comfortable in the application of the *Health Professions Act* for affected dentists and CDAs.

We have developed a new working protocol that – as always – emphasizes public protection first and foremost, while also accommodating a viable pathway to recovery and eventual return to practice.