



Royal College of
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Ensuring Continued Trust

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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TO: ALL RCDSO MEMBERS

Council Meeting - June 10, 2010

This publication is posted online on the College's website within two working days after each Council meeting. We welcome your feedback. If you have questions about any of these items, please contact RCDSO Registrar Irwin Fefergrad by phone at 416-934-5625, toll-free at 1-800-565-4591, or by e-mail at ifefergrad@rcdso.org.

International Observatory on the Regulation of Health Professionals

The Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) in Britain, in collaboration with the London School of Economics, has invited the College to become a member of the CHRE International Observatory on the Regulation of Health Professionals. The College is the first dental regulatory body to be invited to join. The goal of the Observatory is to support improvement in the regulation of health professionals by advancing the understanding of regulation and sharing information about good practices in regulation.

Ontario Fairness Commissioner Speaks to Council

Council was honoured to welcome Commissioner Jean Augustine to make a formal presentation and then join Council for lunch. During her speech, the Commissioner congratulated the College for its full compliance with the legislation and for offering leadership in fairness registration practices.

She noted that the College has been "at the forefront of discussions around labour mobility." As she said, she wanted to "especially compliment you for smoothing the way for internationally trained dentists." The Commissioner said that she uses the College as an example of what can be done in her speeches around the province as the College has maintained standards in its registration practices while continuing to protect the public and at the same time being supportive of her office.

As well, she outlined her future visions and plans which include the development of processes that would allow immigrants to Ontario to fulfill their ambitions by practising to their fullest in the field in which they have training.

She concluded her speech by saying "thank you for your effort and willingness to do things in new and innovative ways."

Sedation and Anaesthesia Common Standards

The College is engaged in ongoing discussions with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario to try and develop common standards for physicians and dentists administering anaesthesia in the dental office.

By-Law Changes

Council approved amendments to By-Law No. 6: Election and Selection of Councillors, as previously circulated. Changes in some of the key steps in the election process give candidates more time and opportunity to announce their candidacy and send out campaign material.

Council also approved amendments to By-Law No. 7: The Register, as previously circulated. One of the key changes is that College will now have the ability to remove antiquated information from the Public Register and provide additional relevant information that the public has asked for, such as the effective start date of a term, condition or limitation in effect on a member's certificate of registration.

Another change to By-Law No. 7 is a requirement for members to give their e-mail addresses to the College. It is important to note that members' e-mail addresses are for College use only and will not be made available to the public.

National Standards for Level II Dental Assistants

Council approved, in principle, the adoption of the prevailing national standard for required qualifications of Level II dental assistants.

Currently, in every province but Ontario, graduates of accredited Level II programs require the written National Dental Assisting Examination Board (NDAEB) examination. Those from non-accredited programs are also required to successfully complete a clinical practice examination. These requirements are consistent with the labour mobility agreement for dental assistants.

The College will now enter into discussions with the NDAEB, the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada and the Ontario Dental Assistants Association to facilitate this change. If this moves forward, the College will need to secure a regulatory change from government.

Guidelines on Electronic Recordkeeping

The working group expects to present a draft version of the new Guidelines to the Quality Assurance Committee for its review in August.

National Symposium on Opioid Prescribing in the Management of Chronic Pain

Behind-the-scenes work continues in research and information collection as the College proceeds with its plans to hold a national symposium on this important topic for dentistry.

New Quality Assurance Program

Key development work continues on the implementation of the regulation that received government approval in late February of this year. This is the first QA regulation in our 142-year history.

The College is working with the National Dental Examination Board on the development of the practice enhancement tool (PET), one of the key elements of the QA regulation. PET is the computer-based self-assessment program that will allow members to evaluate and assess their practice, knowledge, skill and judgement based on peer-derived standards. The pilot testing of PET is to begin later this year.

Audited Financial Statements

Council approved both the RCDSO and the RCDSO Pension Plan audited financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2009. These statements will appear in the 2009 annual report uploaded to our website by the end of this month.

Discipline Committee Report

Following a presentation by the former Chief Justice of the Superior Court, the Honourable Patrick J. LeSage, and also taking into consideration work done by other health care regulatory colleges, the Discipline Committee and staff are examining ways to enhance the pre-trial/case management rules for discipline hearings.

The College will launch its Webinar Series on September 24, 2010 with a presentation by Dr. Charles Shuler. To register for or to obtain more information on the webinar series, please visit the College website at www.rcdso.org and click on the Webinars icon located on the homepage.