



Royal College of
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Ensuring Continued Trust

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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TO: ALL RCDSO MEMBERS

Council Meeting - November 15, 2007

This publication is mailed within four working days of each Council meeting to all College members and key stakeholders. At the same time it is posted on our website at www.rcdso.org. 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.

Exploration of Wellness Initiative

Council unanimously approved the recommendation from the Patient Relations Committee to work with the Ontario Dental Association to explore the possible development of a comprehensive program to assist dentists dealing with addictions and substance abuse. A report will come to Council in November 2008.

Revised Medical History Recordkeeping Guide

The guide is now revised to reflect the new guidelines from the American Heart Association on antibiotic prophylaxis for cardiac patients that significantly changed the previous advice to members. Council approved the changes and the revised kit will be distributed to members with the February/March 2008 issue of Dispatch in mid-February. The kit's contents are now posted on the College's website at www.rcdso.org.

Revised Guidelines on Dental Recordkeeping

Council approved changes to the current Guidelines, originally published in 1995, that reflect current information on the topic of progress notes and record retention that is contained in other College educational material. These new revised Guidelines will be distributed to all members with the February/March 2008 issue of Dispatch in mid-February.

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Approval of 2008 Operating Budget

The operating budget for 2008, as presented by the Finance, Property and Administration Committee, was approved. The budget reflects the College's new commitment to long-term budgeting and it is consistent with the direction and goals of the College as approved by Council. It also takes into account the need to secure the Professional Liability Program, and the College's compliance with the new Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act and the amendments to the Regulated Health Professions Act.

New Joint Educational Project with ODA

Council agreed to a joint venture with the Ontario Dental Association for the production of a educational package on the topic of informed consent. The College has been involved in the production of major educational packages since 2000 and Council members were pleased ODA has accepted the College's invitation to work together on this latest project. The latest LifeLong Learning educational program on dental emergencies, a joint venture with the University of Toronto, is now nearing completion.

By-Law Changes For Election to Council and Appointment of Non-Council Members to Committees

Council approved in principle a number of recommendations from the Legal and Legislation Committee and the Elections Committee. The changes include a reduction of the cooling-off period to two years from three years and the elimination of the five-year registration requirement for members who want to put their name forward for random selection to College committees.

These and the other proposed changes to By-Law No. 5 – qualifications and appointment of non-Council members to committees and By-Law No. 6 – election and selection of Councillors will be circulated to members and other stakeholders for comment.

Professional Liability Program (PLP)

The PLP Committee reported that the PLP staff will continue to emphasize its initiatives to provide members with advice and support to minimize and prevent practice problems as part of its responsibility to fulfill the College's public protection mandate.

Practice Names

The proposed amendment to the College's professional misconduct regulation that deals with practice names was approved and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will be asked to take action to implement the change. This amendment was approved by Council in principle in November 2006 and circulated to stakeholders in December 2006.

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The proposed amendment states that the Executive Committee shall not approve a practice name that:

- would demean the dignity or integrity of the profession or bring the profession into disrepute;
- is suggestive of favourable results or appeals to the public's fears;
- is suggestive of uniqueness, superiority or specialization;
- is misleading or confusing or likely to mislead or confuse the public.

The Committee is unable to guarantee exclusivity of practice names.

Guidelines for Suspended Members

Council approved guidelines for members who have a suspension of their certificate of registration as part of the penalty imposed on them. The guidelines are to ensure that suspended members are conducting themselves appropriately during the suspension.

The guidelines are as follows:

- The member is not permitted to be in the office when patients are present, save and except during unforeseen non-patient related emergencies, such as a building flood.
- The member is obligated to advise staff and other dentists in the office that she or he is under suspension.
- The College shall be permitted to access to the records of the practice, including the appointments book, during the suspension.
- The member shall not do anything that would suggest to patients that the member is entitled to engage in practice.
- The College shall continue to conduct office spot checks during a suspension.

Academic Specialist Certificate Approved in Principle

Council approved in principle a regulation amendment to permit members who hold an academic certificate of registration and who are internationally trained specialists to use the title of Academic Specialist within the confines of the faculty or school of dentistry, or within a hospital or other facility associated with that faculty or school only. The deans of the two Ontario dental schools have indicated their approval of this amendment. The proposed detailed amendment will be reviewed by the Registration Committee and by the Legal and Legislation Committee before being presented to Council for its consideration at its next meeting, and then circulated to members and stakeholders for comment.

Dental Summit on Access to Care in the Long-Term Care Sector

The College, the Ontario Dental Association and the Ontario Dental Hygienists' Association are jointly hosting a one-day summit on April 9, 2008 that will focus on continuing issues on access to oral health care in the long-term care sector. This is a continuation of the College's role in this issue that started with the release of our report in 2003 on the same issue that was supported by the Ontario Long Term Care Association and the Ontario Association for Non-Profit Homes and Services for Seniors.