



Royal College of
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Ensuring Continued Trust

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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TO: ALL RCDSO MEMBERS

Council Meeting of March 4, 2004

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 Web site 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.

A more detailed discussion of many of these items will be included in the April/May issue of *Dispatch*.

Dental Anaesthesia As A Specialty

The creation of a specialty in dental anaesthesia was approved in principle by Council. The Legal and Legislation Committee was directed to prepare proposed amendments to the College's existing regulations to achieve that result. Dr. Daniel Haas, Chair of the Specialty Steering Committee of the Canadian Academy of Dental Anaesthesia, made an excellent presentation on behalf of the Executive Committee to assist Council in its deliberations.

College President Dr. Cam Witmer explained that the adoption of this motion by Council is the first step of a very long, involved and complicated process. It will include extensive membership and stakeholder consultation, and several more opportunities for discussion at Legal and Legislation Committee and at Council. At the end of our process, the College is then dependent on government to approve the regulation changes in order to legally create the specialty. Council was reminded that there are still some College regulations that have been awaiting government approval for over 10 years.

Scope of Practice of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons

College Council passed five motions coming from the report of the Ad Hoc Committee considering the scope of practice of oral and maxillofacial surgeons chaired by Council member Dr. Bohdan Kryshalskyj. The motions were:

1. acknowledgement of the definition of the oral and maxillofacial surgery approved by the Canadian Dental Association;

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2. acceptance that the performance, by appropriately trained practitioners, of the non-elective and emergency dental surgical procedures and the oral and maxillofacial procedures described in the OHIP Schedule of Benefits for dental and oral and maxillofacial services, and of the procedures codified in the Ontario Dental Association's Suggested Fee Guide for Certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, are within the scope of practice of dentistry as defined in Section 3 in the *Dentistry Act, 1991*;
3. confirmation that, since these procedures are within the scope of practice of dentistry in the *Dentistry Act, 1991*, they also fall within the definition of professional services in the insurance policy provided through the Professional Liability Program, and therefore, its error and omissions coverage applies;
4. agreement to move to phase two with an in-depth investigation of the legal, insurance, regulatory and legislative issues that would need to be resolved to expand the scope of practice of oral and maxillofacial surgeons to include other safe procedures not currently within their scope of practice here in Ontario;
5. communication with members to remind them through a Practice Advisory that they should not be undertaking any task within their specialty, unless they are competent to do so.

Access for Foreign-Trained Dentists

President Dr. Cam Witmer made a forceful presentation on the political pressures and challenges facing the College to develop a process to deal with foreign-trained dentists. These are dentists who have passed the qualifying program, passed the NDEB and are practising, and now want to get recognition for their specialty, but their specialty education is from a non-accredited university.

Dr. Witmer clearly stated that the College would not sacrifice its responsibilities on public safety and protection, would not act as gatekeeper to control the supply of dentists in the profession, and was not going to throw open the doors to let just anyone into the province to practise. The Registration Committee is actively involved in the development of any solutions, with any recommendations to come to Council for review and discussion, and then a vote.

Privacy Legislation

The Registrar reported on the extensive continuing involvement of the College on privacy. The provincial government in Ontario has introduced health-care provider specific privacy legislation (Bill 31). The College has had meetings with government and the provincial privacy commissioner's office. Our privacy kit will create a virtually seamless transition when the provincial legislation comes into being on Jan. 1, 2005. The principles and advice in the kit are virtually identical to the first draft of the privacy legislation, including some of the treatment around informed consent with its provisions for expressed and implied consent.

The College made its own presentation on the draft legislation to the legislative committee, and also took a leadership role in the development and presentation of the brief from the federation of

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Ontario health regulatory colleges. College staff also acted as an on-site resource to all members of the legislative committee while they redrafted the legislation.

Federally, the College has gained a reputation as a knowledgeable resource on privacy, and staff has made presentations to a number of organizations outside the dental community. Our privacy kit has gained widespread recognition and acceptance; for example, a major Canadian financial institution has suggested that they may require use of our consent form before lending money to purchase a practice.

Mercury Clean Sweep Project

The College has endorsed the Clean Sweep Project sponsored by both the federal and provincial environment ministries and the Ontario Dental Association to facilitate the removal and disposal of unused stores of elemental mercury from dental offices in Ontario.

Donated Dental Services

Council unanimously adopted a motion to invite Dr. Larry Coffee, President of the National Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped, to make an informal presentation to Council on the Donated Dental Services (DDS) program. This US program links volunteer dentists to needy disabled, aged, medically compromised and other vulnerable individuals to provide charitable dental care. As President Witmer pointed out, this is a logical next step on the work the College has already done on access to oral health care for seniors in long-term care facilities.

FLAME – Fresh Look At Member Education

The College is moving forward on the next generation of educational support to members with the creation of an educational interactive CD-ROM on medical emergencies in the dental office. Dr. Dan Haas, professor and Associate Dean at the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry, is acting as the resource specialist on the development of the content. It is anticipated that the interactive CD-ROM will be completed and ready for distribution to all dentists in the province towards the end of this year, at no additional cost.

Mentorship Program

Members have enthusiastically greeted this pilot project to pair experienced dentists with dentists who have just recently entered private practice, and the Quality Assurance Committee reported that all pairings were quickly subscribed. The pilot will run for one year, and then be reviewed with recommendations to Council.

Periodontal Symposium

A staff working group is moving ahead on investigation of a College symposium to focus on the link between periodontal disease and systemic diseases such as diabetes, and other serious health conditions such as low birth rates and strokes. The working group will be meeting with Dr. Christopher McCulloch, Professor, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto and Director of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Group in Matrix Dynamics, who brought the idea to the Executive Committee, to develop a proposal.

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Meetings with Cabinet Ministers

College representatives will meet with two provincial Cabinet ministers over the next few weeks – Mary Anne Chambers, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities on March 15 and George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care on March 27.

Birth of the Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation

The inaugural meeting of the new Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation is set for April 22 in Ottawa. President Dr. Cam Witmer, Executive Committee member Dr. David Charles and Registrar Irwin Fefergrad will represent the College. As Dr. Witmer said in his report to Council, the birth of the Federation is an historic moment in the history of dentistry in Canada as the nearly 18,000 dentists will now speak with one voice on national and international regulatory matters. As he stated, the College played an important leadership role in the Federation's birth.

Assistance to Dentists in Distress

The College is investigating how to best support dentists who are in distress and/or are chemically dependent and/or have mental disorders. Discussions are underway with the Ontario Medical Association to learn more about their Physician Health Program. The College is working closely with the Ontario Dental Association in development of solutions to support the province's dentists.

Amalgam Waste Regulation

It was reported that about 85% of the membership is in compliance with the new amalgam waste regulation. Over the coming months, Executive Committee will be reviewing the information, on a case-by-case basis, from members who do not have separators in place.

Clinical Practice Guidelines

The Quality Assurance Committee, chaired by Dr. Randy Lang, is reviewing the best way to keep members informed and educated through clinical practice guidelines. The Committee will make any recommendations to Council.

Health Profession Corporations

It was reported that, as of the end of 2003, there were about 700 health profession corporations registered with the College.

Ethics Ad Hoc Committee

Council approved the appointment of members of an Ethics Ad Hoc Committee to continue the review of the existing Code of Ethics and made recommendations to Council. The members are: Dr. Eric Luks, chair; and Council members Mary Ann Labaj, Krystyna Rudko, Stan Spencer, Dr. Philip Watson, and President Dr. Cam Witmer.

NDEB Representative

Doug McVeigh was approved as the College's nominee for public representative to the National Dental Examining Board for a three-year term from Nov. 1, 2004 to Oct. 31, 2007.