



Royal College of
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Ensuring Continued Trust

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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TO: ALL RCDSO MEMBERS

Council Meeting of November 13, 2003

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.

Access to Care Report

Council accepted the final report and its five key recommendations. Copies of this report will be sent to the provincial Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, and all the symposium participants. In summary the key recommendations are that the provincial government needs to take a key leadership role in the issue, work in partnership with stakeholder groups, and ensure that oral health care delivery to the long-term care sector is adequately funded with provincial standards linked to resources and outcomes.

Privacy Tool Kit

The College will be actively marketing our privacy tool kit to dental organizations and dentists across the country on a cost recovery basis. The tool kit will be in the mail to each and every Ontario dentist by the end of the month.

PRIVACY KIT IN THE MAIL BY END OF NOVEMBER

Dental Amalgam

Council ratified a policy statement on the use of dental amalgam, and it is on the College Web site at www.rcdso.org. The College's new Standard of Practice on Amalgam Waste Disposal will be sent to membership with the Jan/Feb 2004 issue of Dispatch. It is also available now on our Web site.

Birth of A Regulatory Federation

Council accepted the formation and structure of the Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation which will become the national forum and collective voice of provincial and territorial dental regulatory authorities. This concept has now been approved by every regulator in the country. See the President's Column in your Oct/Nov issue of Dispatch for more details of the Federation, and the College's leadership role.

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Budget 2004

Council approved the operating budget for 2004 as thoroughly reviewed and presented by the Finance, Property & Administration Committee.

HPRAC Review

Council approved the College's submission to the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council on reassessment of the current criteria for both requests for regulation, and for changes in scope of practice.

Dental Treatment in Hospitals

The College will host a think tank of recognized experts in the area of public health, infection control and hospital dentistry to work out some areas of agreement on the delivery of dental care to patients affected by SARS or similar infectious diseases.

Specialist Applications from Non-Accredited Programs

The College has made a proposal to the committee of all the deans of the dental faculties for a staged process to handle specialist applications from non-accredited universities at a meeting in Winnipeg on Oct. 10. As President Cam Witmer said in his President's Report to Council, there are compelling human rights and pressing legal reasons for a solution.

Pre-Hearing Conferences

Council accepted Discipline Committee's recommendation that, in the public interest, for pre-hearing conferences the Committee chair shall appoint, when possible, one current or former public Council member to assist the dentist who acts as the presider of the pre-hearing conference. In addition, no pre-hearing conference shall take place without the attendance of the member who is the subject of the hearing. These recommendations will be implemented on a six-month pilot program to review their effectiveness.

Publication of Addresses with Discipline Committee Decisions

Council accepted Discipline Committee's recommendation that, when reporting the results of discipline matters in Dispatch, and when ordered by the Discipline Committee, a member's address where the conduct occurred will be published, but only if the member is still practising at that address. If the member is no longer practising at the address where the conduct occurred, then the member's current address will be published.

By-law Changes Approved After Circulation

Council approved the by-law increasing the facility permit fee for the use of sedation and general anaesthesia in a dental practice to \$150. This is the first fee increase since 1996. A staff working group has been formed to review the protocol for office inspections, and report back to Executive Committee and Council.

Council also approved a \$500 fee to be charged to members who have lost their right to prescribe drugs either voluntarily or a result of an order of a committee or panel of a committee. The College will now be using a computerized notification system available through the Ontario College of Pharmacists to notify all Ontario pharmacies.

Both charges fall in line with the College philosophy that costs of administrating a program are borne by its users.

New Practice Advisory

A Practice Advisory on the Prevention of Sexual Impropriety in the Dental Office was approved by Council. The advisory developed by the Patient Relations Committee provides updated information and is more instructional and educational than the previous information for members that focused on the concept of zero tolerance. It replaces the current College Guideline called Prevention of Sexual Abuse in the Dental Office. The new Practice Advisory will be distributed with the Jan/Feb 2004 issue of Dispatch, and will be soon available on the College Web site at www.rcdso.org.

PLP Policy

The PLP Committee's recommendations to update, modernize and clarify the wording of our PLP policy was accepted by Council. The final version of the policy will be distributed to members early in the new year.

Council also approved changes to the individual deductible and step-up provisions of the College's Professional Liability Program, effective January 1, 2004. These are the first changes to the individual deductible in 14 years, and certainly stills puts dentists in an enviable position compared to other professional groups such as lawyers or architects. The changes are \$2,000 for the first claim, \$3,000 for the second claim in the previous five-year period, and \$5,000 for each additional claim in the same previous five-year period.

Mentorship Program

The Quality Assurance Committee is starting a mentorship program on a pilot basis that will pair an experienced dentist with a new or recent graduate. The junior dentist will benefit on a confidential basis from wise counsel on business, personal and professional issues. The more senior dentist gains by sharing in the recent learning experiences of the graduate.

MCDE Program Modification

Under the category of self-study with independent assessment, a new title called interactive Internet study has been added to recognize new and exciting on-line continuing education programs, and to encourage the development of such programs.

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FLAME

The **F**resh **L**ook **A**t **M**ember **E**ducation initiative is moving forward, and the Quality Assurance Committee has set up a working group to revise the mandatory component of the MCDE program and develop College-based programs to increase educational services to members.

Specialty Examinations

Council approved the Registration Committee's recommendation on specialty examinations for applicants from seven different specialties who apply for registration in 2004.

Farewell to Public Members

It was a fond yet sad farewell to five public members whose term on Council has expired: Doug McVeigh, John Pappain, Lloyd Pollack, Elesh Ruparel and Joan Stewart.