

# STANDARD OF PRACTICE

November 2003

## Amalgam Waste Disposal

*Members are reminded that dentists are obligated at all times to maintain the standards of practice of the profession including those published by the College. A member who fails to comply with a standard published by the College or the generally accepted standards of practice of the profession may be acting in a manner that could result in allegations of professional misconduct.*

Under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, the *Dentistry Act, 1991*, and the Regulations passed under those Acts, members are required to comply with standards published from time to time by the College. The following Standard directs members with respect to amalgam waste disposal and the appropriate Standard to be followed in any practice where dental amalgam is replaced, repaired or removed in order to reduce the amount of dental amalgam which directly or indirectly enters the sewage system through the office's waste water.

1. Each dental office in the Province of Ontario in which any dental amalgam is placed, repaired or removed shall have a properly installed dental amalgam device which meets or exceeds the standard entitled "Dental Equipment-Amalgam Separators" made by the International Organization for Standardization.
2. Each member who owns or controls a dental practice in the Province of Ontario, whether directly or indirectly, including control through a health professional corporation or other corporation, shall ensure:
  - (a) that the requirements of paragraph 1 of this Standard are met;
  - (b) that the dental amalgam device is properly inspected and maintained, in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations;

*(continued)*



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(c) that reasonable efforts are made to ensure that the dental amalgam device is kept in proper working order;

(d) that the copy of the manufacturer's recommendations respecting the inspection and maintenance of the dental amalgam device is maintained in the dental office and made available to the College upon request;

(e) that documentation evidencing the installation and each occasion of inspection, maintenance and repair of the dental amalgam device is maintained in the dental office and made available to the College upon request;

(f) that dental amalgam waste, including the dental amalgam trapped by the dental amalgam device, is properly disposed of.

3. A member who places, repairs or removes for a patient any dental amalgam or authorizes the placement, repair or removal for a patient of any dental amalgam, in the Province of Ontario, but who neither owns nor controls, directly or indirectly, the dental practice in which the procedure is being performed, shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that the requirements of paragraph 1 of this Standard have been met.

4. A member shall not place, repair or remove for a patient any dental amalgam or authorize the placement, repair or removal for a patient of any dental amalgam, in the Province of Ontario, where the member knows or reasonably ought to know that this Standard has not been met.