

New QA Program Launches with Start of New CE Cycle

DECEMBER 15, 2011

That's the launch day for the College's new Quality Assurance (QA) Program. It is the first day of the new three-year cycle for the collection of the required 90 CE points for members under the QA Program.

What's it all about? Well, first a bit of history...

In June 2009, new requirements for quality assurance were created for health care regulatory colleges when the amendments to our governing legislation, the Regulated Health Professions Act, were passed as part of the Health Systems Improvement Act.

Our challenge was to develop a new QA regulation and program that met the government's current expectation that health care regulatory colleges would take a proactive role in monitoring the performance of their members, and educating them.

ASSURANCE

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Our starting point was the comments made by Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council in its New Directions report. That report stated that regulatory college members “must have confidence that when changes are identified as necessary in their own practice... there is no link to the discipline or registration process and no office visits. Rather the link is to enhanced competence, continuing improvement and outcome evaluation.”

The College wanted its new QA Program to meet all these requirements, plus incorporate the nurturing, non-punitive philosophy of the College. We wanted to do this by moving beyond the old traditional QA programs that focused on office visits. We wanted our QA Program to be all about sustaining, improving and assuring the professional standards of our members through continuing education and practice enhancement.

Our new QA Program needed:

- to take into account that the overwhelming majority of dentists in Ontario are competent practitioners who continually upgrade their knowledge and skills;
- to meet the demands of changing practice environments and patient needs;
- to ensure members can and do demonstrate their continued competence.

And we have more than met these goals.

In the new QA Program, members will be encouraged and supported to participate in a process of lifelong learning. There is:

- no direct link to the discipline process;
- no link to the registration process;
- no pass/fail examination.



QUALITY

THE THREE-YEAR CE CYCLE

Under the new QA Program, you are still required to obtain at least 90 CE points in each three-year cycle.

And you still need to keep all the documentation that demonstrates that you attended CE activities. In fact, you need to retain all the information for each three-year cycle for five years from the date that the three-year cycle ends. For example, if your CE cycle ends on December 15, 2014, you must keep your information until December 15, 2019.



Current members (members with a general or specialty certificate)

Your CE cycle begins on December 15, 2011.

New members

Your CE cycle begins on December 15 of the calendar year in which you register with the College.

Full-time students

Members enrolled in a full-time post-graduate program are exempt from CE requirements. However, it is the member's responsibility to inform the College's Quality Assurance department in writing of their educational status so that their three-year cycle can be adjusted accordingly.

Bonus for New Graduates

All new members registered with the College in the same calendar year as they completed their undergraduate and/or post-graduate program are awarded 30 CE points (15 CE points in Category 1 and 15 CE points in Category 2) for their first year of a three-year cycle.

ASSURANCE

THE THREE CE CATEGORIES

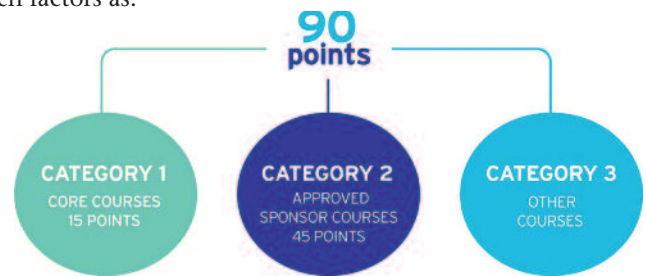
CATEGORY 1:

Core Courses – 15 points

These courses are considered by the Quality Assurance Committee to contain information and knowledge relevant to the practice of the profession and important to promote members' continuing competence and maintenance of professional standards.

In approving courses for this category, the QA Committee considers such factors as:

- course providers are recognized experts on the subject;
- the quality of the delivery mode;
- references or links to supportive educational materials;
- absence of any commercial bias;
- whether or not there is an independent assessment component;
- accessibility to all members equally.



Currently the core courses are the College's LifeLong Learning programs and webinars plus the Ontario Dental Association's program on guiding patients to a smoke-free future.

The College is actively encouraging other organizations to become course providers: the Ontario Dental Association, the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Toronto and the Department of Dentistry at the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Western Ontario.

CATEGORY 2:

Approved Sponsor Courses – 45 Points

These are courses on clinical dental topics offered by approved sponsors or you can collect CE points for teaching.

CATEGORY 3:

Other Courses

You can collect any remaining number of CE points from other courses, including those offered by non-approved sponsors.

It is important to note that attendance at dental conventions is approved for CE points in this category, with six CE points awarded for a full-day attendance.

If you attend a course/lecture/seminar on a clinical dental topic while at a dental convention offered by an approved sponsor, you are able to claim this portion of the CE points in Category 2: Approved Sponsor Courses and the balance in Category 3: Other Courses.



QUALITY ASSURANCE

ELEMENTS OF THE QA PROGRAM

1. Practice Enhancement Tool

This is a computer-based self-assessment program, also known as PET, that allows members to evaluate and assess their practice, knowledge, skill and judgment based on peer-derived standards.

The online program means that it is easily accessible and it is designed to the same high standards as the educational packages in our LifeLong Learning program.

The College has been working very closely with the National Dental Examining Board in the development of this tool to ensure its validity and integrity.

Each year a certain percentage of the membership will be selected at random to take the PET peer-derived self assessment.

PET will be available online right from the College's website.

4. Annual Declaration

Each year you will be entrusted with the responsibility of completing a section on your registration renewal form to self-declare whether or not you are in compliance with the QA Program requirements. This will start with the registration renewals in 2012.

2. Practice Enhancement Consultant

As part of the supportive philosophy of the new QA Program, there is now a consultant on staff to assist members at any time in identifying appropriate continuing education or professional development activities.

The consultant will also help in interpreting or discussing the results of your self-assessment when you are selected to use the

Practice Enhancement Tool and assist you in coming up with a continuing education plan to address any deficiencies or weaknesses.

3. e-Portfolio

By the middle of next year, you will have secure access to your own online e-Portfolio right from the College's website. You will be able to track your own

CE points and see in an instant how many points you need to collect in each category. No more forms.

As you progress through a three-year cycle, you can keep your CE activities updated in your online personal e-Portfolio. At a glance, you will know how many CE points you have in each of the three categories and how many more you are required to get to reach the target.

At the end of a three-year cycle, a certain percentage of the membership will be selected at random and their e-Portfolio will be reviewed to ensure that they are meeting their obligations under the QA regulation.



COLLEGE CONTACTS

Questions about the QA Program

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Questions about CE Points

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