

# Successful launch of QA Program's Practice Enhancement Tool

The key component of the College's Quality Assurance Program, the Practice Enhancement Tool, has been up and running since the beginning of January. The College has now begun the random selection of members to complete this self-assessment. Watch for the launch of the e-Portfolio, another important component of the new QA Program, on April 1. See the feature on page 19 for more details.

## *Who is required to take this self-assessment?*

In accordance with our quality assurance regulation, every member with a general or specialty certificate of registration is to complete an assessment once every five years.

## *What if I am a full-time student in a dental specialty program? Can I still be selected to complete the PET?*

No. Members who are currently enrolled in a full-time post-graduate dental program are exempt from selection.

## *Why do I need to take this self-assessment?*

Our governing legislation, the Regulated Health Professions Act, requires the College to have a Quality Assurance Program that includes self, peer and practice assessment.

The Practice Enhancement Tool is a computer-based self-assessment program that is easy-to-use and provides a positive and fruitful learning experience. It allows you to review your practice, knowledge, skill and judgment based on peer-derived standards.

It is a way to demonstrate continued competency and knowledge without having to go through office visits and other more traditional and intrusive ways of assessing performance.

The College is working very closely with the National Dental Examining Board and the Wilson Centre at the University of Toronto in the development and ongoing delivery of the PET assessment to ensure its validity and integrity.

### *How will I be notified that I have been selected?*

When you are selected, you will receive a notification in writing 30 days in advance of your start date. The letter will include login instructions and a temporary password to access your online assessment. You will also receive a user guide to help you easily navigate the computer-based Practice Enhancement Tool. Once you reach the start date, you have 30 days to complete your assessment.

### *How does the self-assessment work?*

The assessment consists of 200 multiple choice and case study questions based on a foundation of knowledge that is required of all dentists. Initially, the questions will cover six different areas of practice, including:

- pharmacology
- oral medicine and pathology
- radiology
- diagnosis and management of caries
- diagnosis and management of endodontics
- diagnosis and management of periodontics

### *What resources can I use to complete my self-assessment?*

The assessment is essentially open-book. You can refer to textbooks, journals and other resources to help you answer the questions. This is all a legitimate part of the learning process.

Although there is no single source of information, the College has prepared a list of suggested resources which members may find helpful. The list is available at [www.rcdso.org](http://www.rcdso.org) in the Knowledge Centre/Quality Assurance Program.

You can pause during a session, log out and research a particular subject area before proceeding or use a built-in feature of the PET that allows you to flag questions that you would like to review before answering.

You can log out and log back in repeatedly during the

30-day period, completing as many of the assessment questions as you wish during any given session. Your progress is automatically saved. You may also go back and change any of your answers before completing your assessment.

### *What happens after I complete my self-assessment?*

Once you've completed your assessment, the program immediately notifies you of your results. We expect that the overwhelming majority of dentists will find out that, relative to their peers, they are competent in all areas of practice covered by the assessment.

### *What happens if my results indicate that I have a weakness in a specific area of practice?*

Some dentists may be notified that, relative to their peers, they may benefit from continuing education activities in one or more areas of practice. They can rest assured that there is no direct link between this outcome and the discipline or registration process.

Dentists who are notified about a weakness in a specific area of practice have up to six months to pursue continuing education activities before retaking the PET assessment in that same area.

### *I successfully completed the PET! When will I have to do this again?*

Members who have successfully completed the PET have fulfilled their requirements for this component of the Quality Assurance Program and will not be selected again for five years.

As part of the supportive philosophy of the new Quality Assurance Program, the Practice Enhancement Consultant is available to assist dentists at any time by interpreting and discussing the results of your assessment, helping to implement a continuing education plan or suggesting additional resources to address any weakness in order to ensure your success.

#### COLLEGE CONTACT

Dr. Greg Anderson – Practice Enhancement Consultant  
416-934-5620 1-800-565-4591  
[ganderson@rcdso.org](mailto:ganderson@rcdso.org)