

Purchasing, Installing and Operating a **Dental Amalgam Separator**



This past May a new regulation was approved by provincial Cabinet that requires:

Every 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 for Amalgam Separators as determined by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

The regulation comes into effect on November 15, 2003.

Not surprisingly, the College has already received a number of calls from members seeking guidance on this important subject.

- Which amalgam separator should I buy?
- Is this model okay for my office?
- Will it affect my vacuum system?
- What about the disposal of collected wastes?

All these questions and more should be considered when choosing the right equipment for your office.

As a special supplement to Dispatch, the advisory board to PEAK is pleased to offer the following timely article:

Purchasing, Installing and Operating Dental Amalgam Separators, from the Journal of the American Dental Association (August 2003).

The article takes a practical approach to explore the various issues involved in this significant decision, including the types of amalgam separators avail-

College provides
members with extensive
information on
amalgam separators.

able, space and utility requirements, dental office and building constraints, regulatory issues, ease of maintenance and replacement, effect on suction equipment, and cost.

This is the second article in one year that PEAK has offered on this important subject. In the October/ November 2002 issue of Dispatch there was a PEAK article on the laboratory evaluation of amalgam separators. There are

also the two parts of the Watson report on the fate of mercury from the placement and removal of dental amalgam available on the College's Web site at www.rcdso.org under Expert Articles.

PEAK (Practice Enhancement and Knowledge) is a College service for members, whose goal is to regularly provide Ontario dentists with copies of key articles on a wide range of clinical and non-clinical topics from the dental literature around the world.

It is important to note that PEAK articles may contain opinions, views or statements that are not necessarily endorsed by the College. However, the PEAK advisory board is committed in its desire to provide quality material to enhance the knowledge and skills of member dentists.

If you have any questions about this subject, or questions about the PEAK membership service, please contact Dr. Michael Gardner, Assistant to the Registrar, Dental at 416-934-5616, toll free at 1-800-565-4591, or by e-mail at mgardner@rcdso.org. 