



Royal College of  
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

*Ensuring Continued Trust*

# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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TO: ALL RCDSO MEMBERS

## Council Meeting - June 14, 2012

**This publication is e-mailed out to members and posted online on the College's website within two working days after each Council meeting. It covers some of the key highlights of the Council business. We welcome your feedback. If you have questions about any of these items, please contact RCDSO Registrar Irwin Fefergrad at 416-934-5625, toll-free at 1-800-565-4591, or by e-mail at [ifefergrad@rcdso.org](mailto:ifefergrad@rcdso.org).**

### **STANDARD OF PRACTICE FOR THE USE OF SEDATION AND GENERAL ANESTHESIA**

Council unanimously approved this new revised standard and it will be posted on the College's website. A paper copy will be distributed to all members with the August/September issue of Dispatch magazine. The standard was approved in principle at its October meeting and then circulated to membership and stakeholders for consultation.

### **PRACTISING WITH BLOOD BORNE VIRAL INFECTIONS**

Dr. Stephen Shafran, Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine at the University of Alberta, presented a preview of the recommendations from the national working group commissioned by the Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation to develop guidelines on dentists practising with blood borne viral infections. The guidelines will help regulators, educators and dentists understand and manage the risks while ensuring the safety of patient care.

Other members of the working group include Dr. David Wong, Clinic Director at the Toronto Western Hospital Liver Centre and Dr. David Mock, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto.

The final report from the working group will be presented at the fall meeting of the CDRAF board of directors. The project originated with this College and now all the other dental regulators in the country have agreed to participate.

### **NEW PRACTICE ADVISORY – USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

A best practices document on the responsible and professional use of electronic communications and social media by dentists was adopted by Council. The advisory provides concrete advice to dentists to maintain professional boundaries with their patients when using e-mail and social media like Facebook. It is now available on the College website.

### **NEW PRACTICE ADVISORY – MOST RESPONSIBLE DENTIST**

A best practices document that assists both the general dentist and the specialist to deliver optimum treatment and provide continuity of care for the patient in a referral situation where there is a shared responsibility for patient care was approved by Council. It is now available on the College website.

### **COMMUNICATION OF DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE DECISIONS TO PATIENTS**

Council unanimously agreed that the Discipline Committee may in appropriate situations give written direction to the Registrar to notify the patient involved in writing of a panel's finding of professional misconduct for failing to maintain standards of care and advise the patient to seek a second opinion. The dentist involved in the complaint would be notified too. This would only apply in the rare situations where the patient involved is not a formal party to the proceeding.

### **MANAGEMENT OF ACUTE AND CHRONIC PAIN IN DENTAL PRACTICE**

Council approved the striking of a working group to prepare guidelines to address best practices for the safe and effective use of analgesics, including opioid analgesics. The guidelines would include tools to help dentists make appropriate prescribing decisions. In addition, Council agreed to an expenditure of up to \$25,000 to gather statistical information on the prescribing practices of Ontario dentists.

### **GUIDELINES ON IMPLANT DENTISTRY**

Council approved, in principle, proposed Guidelines for Educational Requirements & Professional Responsibilities for Implant Dentistry. They will now be circulated to members and other stakeholders for 60 days for comment.

### **CHANGES IN COUNCIL LINEUP**

Dr. Ted Schipper was acclaimed as the vice president of the College, while Dr. David Clark was acclaimed to fill a vacancy on the Executive Committee. Dr. Neil Gajjar was the successful candidate in the District 10 by-election.

### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

The newly appointed public member Ted Callaghan was appointed to the Discipline Committee. With the election of Dr. Neil Gajjar as the new Councillor for District 10, the resulting vacancy on the Professional Liability Committee will be filled by Dr. Karen Aiken.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT & BY-LAW REVIEW**

The Legal and Legislation Committee has begun a comprehensive review of the Code of Conduct for Council Members, as approved by Council in March, and will be reporting back to Council at a later date.

### **ELECTION MORATORIUM ON EMAIL BLASTS**

Council unanimously approved a policy to level the playing field and ensure fairness and integrity for all candidates during Council elections. The policy states that the College will not send out any e-mail blasts on behalf of a Council member to district members in the three months immediately preceding the date of the Council elections.

**NATIONAL WELLNESS CONFERENCE**

The College will be actively participating in the national wellness conference focusing on substance abuse scheduled for mid-October here in Toronto. The conference is a joint project between the Canadian Dental Association and the Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation. The planning committee for the conference includes College Registrar Irwin Fefergrad who is also the CDRAF executive director. Other College staff will support in the conference coordination and delivery.

**DENTAL CT SCANNERS**

The permit process for dentists to apply for the use of CT scanners is running smoothly. About 25 dentists have applied and already have had their applications reviewed and there are about another 10 in the process. For more information about how to apply, go the College website at [www.rcdso.org](http://www.rcdso.org) and click on Dental CT Scanners in the navigation bar on the left hand side of the home page.

**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Council approved the RCDSO Audited Financial Statements and the Pension Fund Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2011. These statements will appear in the 2011 annual report uploaded to our website in early July.