

# Board Business

*From the Registrar's Desk*



**No. 33 February 2007**

## **Licensing Report**

At the 30 November 2006 licensing deadlines, (6) dentists were struck from the Register. Twenty five dental hygienists – (14) for nonpayment of Association dues, (5) for nonpayment of license fees and (6) for nonpayment of both fees. All licensees struck from the Register are required to pay a reinstatement fee.

Further to the 31 December 2006 deadline for Corporation renewals – 6 corporations were notified that they have been inactivated.

## **Number of Provincial Dental Board Licensees**

|                     | <b>2004</b> | <b>2005</b> | <b>2006</b> |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>DDS</b>          | 500         | 510         | 512         |
| <b>DH</b>           | 493         | 515         | 521         |
| <b>DA</b>           | 619         | 678         | 680         |
| <b>Corporations</b> | 318         | 320         | 322         |

## **Board Appointments**

Ms. Suzanne MacIntosh, RDH was reappointed to the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia's Discipline Committee.

Ms. Marina Crawford, RDA was appointed to the Provincial Dental Board's Complaints Committee.

## **Use of Old PMP Prescription Pads**

The Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) has undergone many changes in the past two years. These changes include new legislation and associated regulations, a redesigned triplicate prescription pad, and implementation of an online real-time adjudication system.

These changes will greatly enhance the PMP and help it to better meet its mandate to promote the appropriate use of monitored drugs and the reduction of the abuse or misuse of monitored drugs.

**PROVINCIAL DENTAL BOARD OF NOVA SCOTIA**  
Suite 102, 1559 Brunswick Street, Halifax, NS B3J 2G1

[www.pdbns.ca](http://www.pdbns.ca)

(902) 420-0083



## **Regulation No. 8 – Dental Assistants**

The Dental Board has agreed on the expanded scope of practice for dental assistants and a proposed amendment to Regulation No. 8 has been forwarded to the Department of Health prior to seeking Governor in Council approval.

## **Complaints and Discipline Committee Update**

The Complaints Committee met on Monday evening 20 November 2006 to consider four complaints.

- The Committee found that the medical history portion of a patient's dental record was grossly inadequate and insufficient to provide for a diagnosis. Furthermore, no evidence was found in the dental record to support the allegations in the dentist's correspondence concerning the patient's health status.

A formal Letter of Reprimand was issued to the dentist as well as a request that a proposal be provided to the Registrar on how the dentist will get themselves up to standard in the noted areas of deficiency.

- Further to concerns from a parent about the provision of dental care to a dependant child, the Committee determined that the quality of care provided was of an expected standard. However, there were indications in the documentation provided that, despite joint custody provisions, information concerning the dental treatment provided to the child was withheld from one parent on the direction of their spouse.

A Letter of Counsel was provided advising that in future the dental office should be certain of its actions before restricting information in similar circumstances.

- This case involved the intra-office referral of a patient for orthodontic treatment prior to prosthodontic rehabilitation by the referring dentist. Following completion of the orthodontic treatment and provision of retainers, the patient was non compliant in the retention phase and was not seen by the referring dentist for a four month period. The patient had a complete relapse and was treated successfully with a removable partial denture.

The Committee felt that two additions to the dental office procedures would have made this matter clearer to everyone involved and might have prevented this matter from reaching the Complaints Committee.

1. Implementation of a hard copy in-office referral from that would clearly define the objectives of treatment and what exactly is being requested. At the end of the treatment, the form could be utilized to explain the outcome achieved and what the dentist of record was requesting.
2. The office consent form should be adjusted to clearly define the treatment methods that will be utilized, the treatment goals and expectations and as well, the form should be signed.

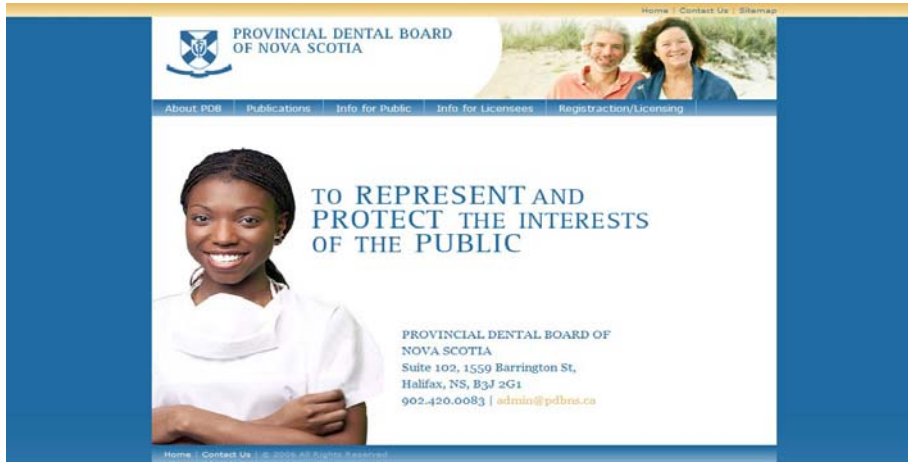
A Letter of Counsel was provided and the dentist involved was requested to review with the Registrar the implementation of record keeping modifications to enhance the management of patient treatment.

- Further to a complaint concerning a dentist's decision to not complete a root canal therapy and to refer the patient back to their original dentist, the Committee found that the dentist acted appropriately and reasonably. The complaint was dismissed.

### **Mandatory Continuing Dental Education Committee (MCDE)**

The MCDE Committee meeting of February 2, 2007 to consider the annual continuing education audit documentation was cancelled due to weather. The Committee hopes to meet in early March so that the result of the Continuing Education audit can be completed and the licensees informed of their status by 1 April 2007.

### **Webpage Updates**



The Provincial Dental Board has decided to add the names of all licensees to the webpage under the *Information for Public* section. The licensee names will be listed alphabetically and the dentist's office phone number will also be provided.

As well a list of licensed specialists by discipline will also be included.

A specific section for Prescription Monitoring Program has been implemented under Publications / Communication Points. Please let us know of any other suggestions you may have to improve the webpage layout and function.

### **Summit Meeting on Foreign Trained Dental Specialists**

Vice Chair Dr. Eric Hatfield and the Registrar will attend a Canadian Dental Regulatory Authority Federation (CDRAF) Summit meeting in Toronto on February 16 – 18, 2007. The intent of the meeting is to investigate process' to manage the registration and certification of foreign trained dental specialists.

Dr. W. A. MacInnis, Registrar