

Board Business

From the Registrar's Desk



Board Nominations

The following appointments and reappointments were approved at the May 30, 2008 Dental Board meeting:

Complaints Committee

Dr. John Christie, Chair
Ms. Natalie Penney, RDA
Ms. Mary Lou Briggs, RDH
Ms. Nancy Neish, RDH

Mandatory Continuing Dental Education Committee

Paul Downing, Chair
Dr. David Ingham
Ms. Catherine Cooke, RDA

National Dental Examining Board

Dr. Doug Mackey

Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Board

Dr. Marco Chiarot

Licensing Report

Dental Assisting licensing fees were due April 30, 2008. This year 44 dental assistants were struck from the Register:

17 for nonpayment of license fees

11 for nonpayment of NSDAA membership fees

16 for nonpayment of both license fee and Association fee

Of these 16 have been reinstated and 18 have relinquished their license.

To date we have licensed the following number of new graduates – dental assistants (31), dental hygienists (18) and dentists (15).

Dental Assistant Reinstatement Fee Appeal

The Dental Board considered an appeal from a dental assistant concerning the reinstatement fee charged due to late payment of the 2008 license fee. Following a review of the Board's policy that states the license fee must be received by the Registrar on or before the due date, the Board, unanimously agreed to deny the appeal.

Financial Statements

The audited 2007 Financial Statements of the Provincial Dental Board were adopted by the Board at its May 30, 2008 meeting. Copies of the statements have been distributed as required. The financial statements are posted on the Board webpage at www.pdbns.ca



Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program

Now that all retail pharmacies are submitting prescriptions for monitored drugs through the on-line system, the PMP is modifying the prescribing pads to a duplicate format. The new pads will be virtually identical to the triplicate ones and the transition will be initiated as the stock of triplicate pads is depleted. Please use all triplicate pads you have and when you re-order, duplicates will be provided.

Board Policy – Self Prescribing / Self Medication of Monitored Drugs

Further to correspondence from the Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Board, the Dental Board reviewed the need for a policy statement on self prescribing / self medication of monitored drugs. The following policy statement was adopted by the Board at its 30 May 2008 meeting:

“Definition:

Monitored drugs- means those drugs designated by the Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program Regulations.

With respect to Self Prescribing and / or Self Medication of monitored drugs the Provincial Dental Board has adopted the position that:

- Dentists should limit treatment of themselves to emergency services and only when a physician is not readily available.
- Dentists must be aware of and observe the appropriate dosages and side effects.
- The privilege of self prescribing is limited by the obligation of making a reasonable attempt to obtain appropriate health professional assistance as soon as possible.”

Mandatory Continuing Dental Education Audit Report

The audit of the MCDE cycle ending December 31, 2007 is now complete. Following the documentation review by the MCDE Committee, 2 dental assistants and 2 dental hygienists were asked to provide additional verification of their CE credits. These licensees have now met the requirements of the audit process.

Two dentists who were audited subsequently relinquished their license. Both dentists have been informed that they did not meet the MCDE requirements and that they will need to do so should they wish to relicense in Nova Scotia.

Dental Assisting Intra Oral Training

During the past year, both the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC-IT) and Holland College suspended their intra oral skill training programs for dental assistants. As a result, dental assistants in Nova Scotia who needed upgrading to be eligible for licensure were without options in our region. Fortunately, both NSCC-IT and Holland College are developing revised programs to meet the needs for intra oral skill education. Once the Provincial Dental Board approves the intra oral programs, we will put this information on our webpage.

Legislative Updates

- **Dental Practice Review (DPR) Regulation** - Order-in-Council approval has been granted for the new Regulation and the Board is planning to implement the DPR process in 2009.
- **Amendments to Regulation No. 1- Qualifications for Registration & Licensing of Dentists and Regulation No. 2- Specialists**– In October 2007 the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia was a signatory to the Canadian Dental Regulatory Federation Authority Memorandum of Understanding concerning foreign trained dental specialists. At the May 30, 2008 meeting of the Board, amendments were approved to Regulation No. 1 and Regulation No. 2 that would create a licensure category “Specialist, Limited to their Specialty”. The amended Regulations have now been forwarded for government consideration.
- **Statutory Privilege** - A recent decision of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court concluded that there was no privilege protecting disclosure of discipline records in civil proceedings unless such a privilege was included in legislation. As a result, the Department of Justice offered regulators of health professions without statutory privilege the opportunity to have it included in their statute through omnibus legislation.

With our agreement, Chapter 3 of the Dental Act was amended to include a Statutory Privilege section- as were twelve other regulated health professions.

- **Fair Access to Regulated Professions** – In early 2008, the Provincial Government introduced the Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act in the Spring sitting of the legislature.

As a member of the Regulated Professions, the Dental Board reacted negatively to the proposed Act and attempted to have adequate consultation with government about the deficiencies in the legislation. While supporting the principles of Fair Access, the regulators agreed that we needed to work with government to come up with an appropriate Act and accompanying Regulations.

As part of the group, the Dental Board wrote letters to the Premier and Ministers outlining our concerns. We also attended meetings with the Deputy Minister and Minister of Labour and Workforce Development, Deputy Minister of Health as well as the Leaders of the opposition parties.

At the close of the spring session, the proposed Act had not completed second reading.

The hope continues that we will be able to meet with government to pursue the development of suitable legislation prior to the fall sitting of government.

Complaints & Discipline Report

In a recent Discipline Hearing Report, the Hearing Panel concluded that the decision should be reported on a named basis.

The following is an edited summary of the Discipline Hearing concerning:

Dr. Wayne H. Hills
Main Street Dental Centre
399 Main Street
Wolfville, NS

The charges against Dr. Hills related to the provision of posterior composite restorations and fixed prosthodontic treatment.

The Discipline Hearing found that the posterior composite restorations and some of the fixed prosthodontic treatments which were the subject of the charges did not meet the standard of skill, knowledge and judgement expected.

The Discipline Hearing imposed the following sanctions:

1. In order to be permitted to provide posterior composite restorations and fixed prosthodontics treatments to patients, Dr. Hills must complete an Educational Program offered by Dr. Wayne Garland at Dalhousie University.
2. Practice Restriction – Following successful completion of the Educational Program, Dr. Hills' posterior composite and fixed prosthodontic treatments will be reviewed monthly by Dr. Garland for a period of six months.
3. Practice Monitoring – Following the Educational Program and the Practice Restriction, Dr. Hills' practice will be subject to monitoring by Dr. Garland for a period of two years.
4. All costs related to the Education Program, Practice Restriction and Monitoring will be paid by Dr. Hills.
5. Dr. Hills is responsible for the payment of \$ 60,000 towards the costs of the hearing.

Dr. Hills has filed a Notice of Appeal of the decision of the Disciplinary Hearing with the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal.

There has not been a Complaints Committee meeting since the last Board Business.

Respectfully Submitted,

