

Board Business

From the Registrar's Desk

No. 47, June 2012



Message from Board Chair – Dr. Ian Doyle

The Provincial Dental Board is evolving to reflect our new governance model. Over the past three years, a governance document has been developed, ratified, and is now being implemented. There is now more input into Board business through our Governance, Finance and Human Resources Committees. These committees will now meet regularly before and after Board meetings.

Dr. Bill MacInnis has informed the Board that he will be retiring in the summer of 2013 and Dr. Martin Gillis has assumed his duties as our first Deputy Registrar. The final three government appointments (two public members and one dental assistant) should complete our board and be in place by September.

In October, four members of the Board including myself will attend a joint CDRAF-CDA Wellness Conference in Toronto. The goal of the conference is “to gain a clearer understanding of the disease of addiction and pursue how professional associations and regulators can work together on prevention, education, and support for their colleagues.”

Registrar Search – Dr. Tom Raddall, III

A Search Committee has been struck to begin the process of recruiting for the Registrar’s position with the PDB. Dr. Bill MacInnis, after almost eight years of dedicated service intends to retire from his position as Registrar on June 30, 2013. The motion to delegate this task to the Search Committee was passed at the June 1, 2012, Board meeting.

The members of the Search Committee include: Board Chair, Dr. Ian Doyle; Dr. Eric Hatfield; Dr. Tom Raddall; Judy Oakley, RDA; and Dr. Lee Erickson. In keeping with the terms of succession planning in the PDB Governance Policy Manual, the Search Committee is presently giving consideration to retaining a recruitment firm to assist in the recruitment and selection of the Registrar. Once an ideal candidate profile has been established, the Registrar’s position will be advertised and the selection process will follow.

The Search Committee will keep the Board advised of its progress and, ultimately, all licensees and stakeholders as well.



PROVINCIAL DENTAL BOARD OF NOVA SCOTIA

Suite 102, 1559 Brunswick Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2G1

(902) 420-0083

www.pdbns.ca

Board Appointments

The following appointments to the Board's functional committees have been approved.

Complaints Committee

- Dr. John Christie, Chair
- Ms. Natalie Penney, RDA

Discipline Committee

- Mr. Rod Desborough, Public
- Ms. Angela Worsley, RDA

Functional Committee Updates

Complaints Committee

The Complaints Committee has met twice since the January 27, 2012 Board meeting. In its deliberations the Committee considered four cases.

Case 1. The complainant alleged that the dentist acted in a negligent and unprofessional manner and that their actions resulted in the patient suffering an aggravated c.difficile infection. The Committee found that the expected treatment protocols and the instructions provided by the dentist to the patient met an acceptable standard of care. The complaint was dismissed.

Case 2. The complainant alleged that crowns placed five years previously now needed to be replaced because of the poor dentistry provided.

The Committee determined with respect to the patient's treatment that;

- The patient lacked a stable posterior occlusion and as a result undue masticatory forces and stresses were placed on their front teeth.
- The dentist in question did not perform the foundation work on the teeth that had significantly weakened them.
- One of the risks of having anterior crowns placed on root canal treated teeth is root fracture.
- The dentist attempted to restore the compromised tooth but unfortunately the root fractured and the tooth needed to be extracted.
- The radiograph taken at the time of placement of the crowns showed no evidence that they were inadequate.

The Committee decision was that there was no evidence that the dentist failed to provide a reasonable standard of care.

Case 3. The patient's complaint lodged against the dentist related to the dentist's failure to accept full responsibility for the flawed design of the implant bridge and for the dentist's refusal to return all of the fees paid for the failed work.

The Committee determined;

- The Dental Board does not have any legislative authority to deal with fee disputes or refunding of fees.
- The patient's dental record revealed a long standing history of fractured and chipped teeth, bruxism, and inconsistent bite plane compliance and enhanced occlusal awareness.
- There was no evidence that the treatment provided did not meet the expected standard of care.

The complaint was dismissed.

Case 4. The complainant alleged that they were referred for an extraction and a consult for two potential implants. The patient stated that they weren't informed of the increased risk of having the implants placed immediately and not informed of the costs involved if the implant treatments failed. Following a series of events that resulted in the removal of the implants, the patient questioned the appropriateness of the care provided.

The Committee determined that;

- The patient did not inform the dentist of their continuing post implant insertion symptoms that ultimately exacerbated the failure of their treatment.
- There was no evidence that the treatment provided did not meet the standard of care expected.

The complaint was dismissed.

Prescription Monitoring Program

In an effort to provide physicians, dentists and pharmacists with enhanced access to patient profiles, the Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program (NSPMP) launched eAccess on April 1, 2012. This new service allows prescribers and pharmacists the ability to log on to a secure website and obtain a patient profile either during or outside of the NSPMP's business hours. This will provide prescribers and pharmacists with access to information they need, when they need it, to determine the best treatment for their patient while promoting the appropriate use and the reduction of abuse and misuse of these monitored drugs.

To register for eAccess, dentists will require a username and password. In order to receive this information, dentists will be required to complete an eAccess Registration form and sign a User Agreement form. Both of these forms are available on the NSPMP website or by calling PMP at either 902-496-7123 or toll free 1-877-476-7767. The username and password will be emailed to the registrant via two separate emails so a secure email address is mandatory.

The Link to the actual forms is <http://www.nspmo.ca/forms.php>

DIS – Drug Information Systems Project

Over the next three years, the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness will be implementing a province-wide drug information system (DIS). The DIS will provide community pharmacies and authorized health care providers with access to their patients' comprehensive medication histories and help identify potential contraindications, drug interactions, drug allergies and adverse reactions to medications. This information will help health care professionals with their clinical decisions in support of safe and appropriate drug therapy for their patients.

Pharmacies will begin using the drug information system in 2013. Rollout to health care providers, including dentists and dental hygienists, will begin in the Spring of 2014.

Sincerely
Dr. W. A. MacInnis
Registrar