



Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia

Board Business

From the Registrar's Desk

No. 77, July 2023



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COMINGS AND GOINGS

I would like to officially welcome Ms. Kaitlynn Zegray who joined the PDBNS staff in April as our new administrative assistant. Kaitlynn has been a welcome addition to the office after a staffing drought. She brings experience as a dental receptionist and a keen willingness to learn regulatory processes. We are also appreciative of registrants' patience as we navigated the challenges of being short-staffed for several months.

I am also pleased to welcome Dr. Mary McNally who, as a consultant, will be supporting the Complaints Committee in the drafting of meeting minutes and the Committee's written decisions. From the perspective of administrative law, the expectations and standards for these documents have increased significantly over the past couple of decades. Dr. McNally graduated from Dalhousie Dentistry in 1992 and was in clinical practice from 1992-2001 in Coldbrook. She is a professor emerita at Dalhousie, having formally retired as Professor and Associate Dean of Research in 2021 from the Faculty of Dentistry. She also held a cross-appointment to the Faculty of Medicine's Department of Bioethics.

I extend a very belated thank-you to (left to right) Ms. Donna Rushton RDA, Dr. Kevin Walsh, Dr. Daniel Albert, and Dr. Shelly Anderson, each of whom finished their third and final three-year term on the PDBNS Board at the end of 2022. They each demonstrated incredible dedication to the work of the Board. They turned their years of professional experience into valuable insights at the Board table, while working to protect the public interest.



LICENSING REPORT

The table below shows the historical numbers of licensed dentists, graduate students, registered dental assistants, and corporations since 2017:

Year	Dentists	Graduate Students	Registered Dental Assistants	Dental Corporations
2023 (July 7, 2023)	594	19	771	342
2022 (Dec. 31, 2022)	580	19	822	410
2021 (Dec. 31, 2021)	576	19	827	414
2020 (Dec. 31, 2020)	567	18	842	395
2019 (Dec. 31, 2019)	560	17	831	394
2018 (Dec. 31, 2018)	570	19	805	376
2017 (Dec. 31, 2017)	559	18	789	393

There will be more dentists and dental assistants licensed in the coming weeks as applications arrive from recent graduates. In compliance with the recently introduced [Patient Access to Care Act \(PACA\)](#), we are issuing licenses within 5 business days of receiving a **completed application** (unless the applicant wishes to defer).

A completed application means that all required supporting documentation has been submitted and that the Registrar has been able to perform the necessary follow-up that may be triggered by the documentation (e.g., investigation of previous professional conduct history).

BLS CERTIFICATION

The PDBNS Board passed a motion at its January 2023 meeting *“That all registrants of the PDBNS be required to maintain current certification in Basic Life Support (BLS) from a recognized provider.”*

This motion formalized an expectation that had been part of the Dental Practice Review process for some time.

Beginning in the fall of 2023, all registrants will be required to upload a copy of their valid BLS (or ACLS/PALS) certificate as part of the online license renewal process. It will not be possible to complete license renewal without this.

It will no longer be a requirement for those selected for audit under Mandatory Continuing Dental Education (MCDE) to submit proof of a BLS/CPR course. However, such courses are still eligible for credit under Category 1 if a registrant chooses to include them in audit submissions (with hour-for-hour credit). This is reflected in the updated [MCDE Guidelines](#).

STANDARD OF PRACTICE FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The [PDBNS Standard of Practice For Infection Prevention and Control \(IPAC\)](#), which was disseminated on December 1, 2022, came into effect on March 1, 2023. Even during Dental Practice Review visits which took place early in 2023 prior to March 1, it was found that offices were well underway toward compliance with the Standard. The Board appreciates that there were procedural modifications and costs associated with bringing IPAC standards in line with modern best practice.

ORAL RADIOLOGY GUIDELINES

Registrants should familiarize themselves with the [PDBNS Guidelines for Prescribing and Taking Dental Radiographs](#) adopted at the May 2023 Board meeting.

DIGITAL/OPTICAL SCANNING

A [Policy on Digital/Optical Scanning](#) was adopted at the May 2023 Board meeting. The PDBNS considers digital/optical scanning of the teeth and other oral tissues to be an intraoral procedure and therefore prohibited for non-registered persons employed in dental offices.

As an aside, there was clear expression among Committee and Board members that suctioning under the direct supervision of a dentist must be permitted for non-registered persons since prohibiting it would significantly limit access to care, which is not in the public interest.

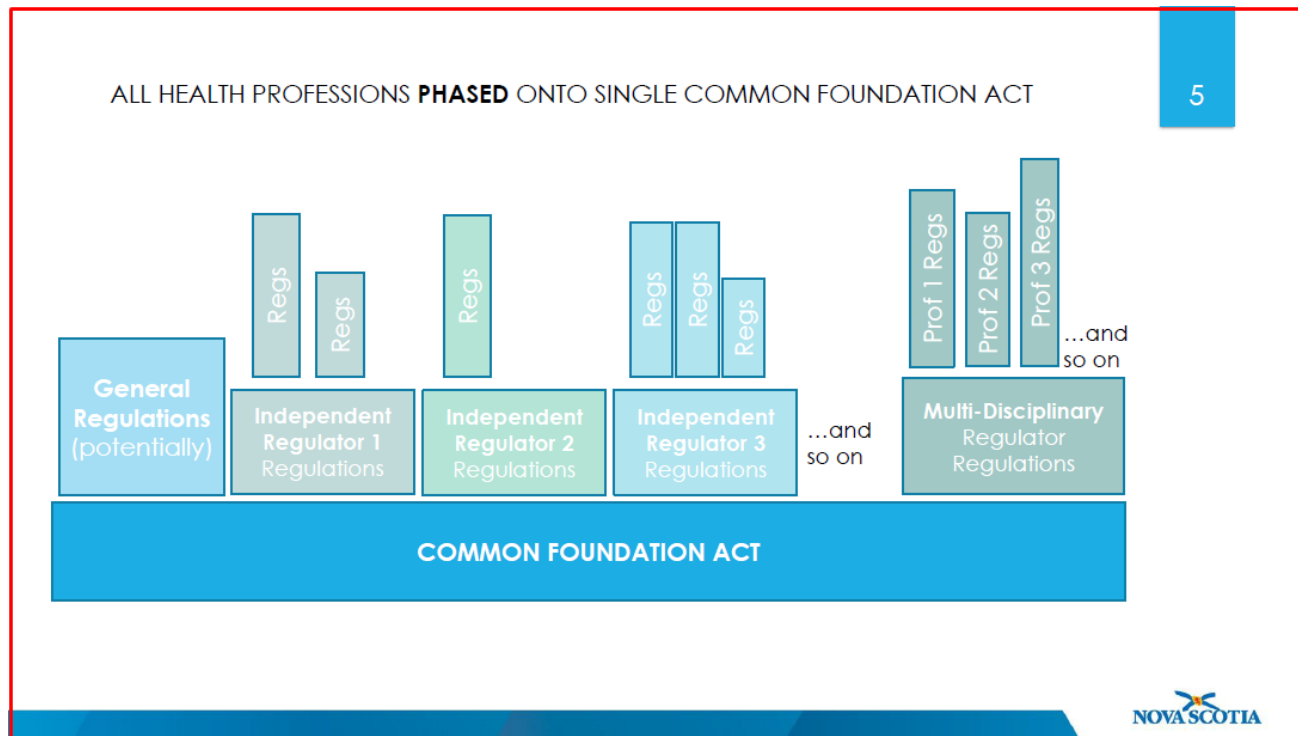
CONDITIONAL LICENSES FOR REGISTERED DENTAL ASSISTANTS (RDAs)

For reference, a message sent to registrants in June 2022 with information on conditional licenses for recently graduated dental assistants can be accessed [at this link](#).

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

Most registrants will be aware that leading up to 2022, work had taken place toward the creation of a new Dental Act to replace [the current Dental Act](#) which was proclaimed in 1992. The PDBNS and the Department of Health and Wellness (DHW) had arrived at the stage in which public consultations would be held regarding the new Act.

Early in 2022, DHW announced to the 22 Nova Scotia health regulators that it would change direction and instead move toward replacing the existing 22 health profession Acts with a single “common foundation” Act which would govern all health professions. Under this model, each regulatory body would have profession-specific regulations, by-laws, and policies as illustrated in the following diagram shared with the Nova Scotia health profession regulatory bodies in January 2022:



This proposed model would see regulatory best-practices established uniformly across all health professions and allow future modernization to occur more nimbly for all health professions as required. A series of consultations took place between DHW and the 22 health regulators between January and November of 2022 regarding aspects of the proposed legislation.

The PDBNS welcomes regulatory modernization as well as the opportunity to have certain aspects of dental regulation migrated among the Act, Regulations, By-laws, and policies which would also facilitate future changes as required. At the same time, Board members have expressed some uncertainty around:

- the short timeframe and high-level nature of the consultative process between government and health regulators on this new direction,
- the fact that health regulators will have no further opportunity for input or feedback on the new Act before it is introduced in the legislature,
- the unclear parameters around government's proposed increased ministerial intervention powers,
- the possibility of increased reporting requirements on the part of the regulators which could require an increase in human and financial resources, and
- possible delays in having vacancies filled if there is to be an increase in the number of government appointees to the Board and committees.

Although this new common foundations Act was slated to be introduced in the spring 2023 sitting of the House of Assembly, government pushed this to the fall sitting in favour of the new [Patient Access to Care Act \(PACA\)](#) which was introduced on March 21 and received royal assent, becoming law, on March 30.

PACA includes measures to further streamline and expedite the registration and licensing process for members of all health professions currently licensed in other Canadian jurisdictions. Further, it prohibits Nova Scotia health regulators from charging initial application fees for such health professionals entering Nova Scotia. (A funding agreement is being developed wherein government will reimburse Nova Scotia health regulators for lost revenue.) This Act also grants government the power to determine to which international jurisdictions the same measures must apply.

As the Regulations pursuant to this Act are being developed, we have been assured by government and trust that professional standards will not be lowered in the interest of increasing numbers of healthcare workers. As well, we trust that health regulators will retain the ability to ensure that only individuals who can practice competently, safely, and ethically are licensed in Nova Scotia.

REGISTRANTS WITH BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

Background

At the September 2007 meeting of the PDBNS Board, a motion was passed to “adopt the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia (CPSNS) process that provides PDBNS licensees access to the Colleges Ad Hoc Committee on Bloodborne Pathogens”.

Through this process, a medical or dental licensee who self-identified as having a bloodborne pathogen (e.g., HIV, Hepatitis C) would receive expert advice from an arm’s-length committee regarding their medical/dental practice in the interest of furthering the safety and well-being of Nova Scotians. The committee would also monitor the progression of the licensee’s illness and provide an annual written report to the appropriate regulatory authority (CPSNS or PDBNS).

The CPSNS has since disbanded the Ad Hoc Committee on Bloodborne Pathogens. It is the current view of the CPSNS that hepatitis and HIV among physicians (including surgeons) carry no greater risk to patients than other factors (e.g., mental health issues). This is in light of the fact that these bloodborne diseases are well-managed with contemporary treatments. Individuals with HIV, for example, who are adherent to prescribed antiretroviral therapy tend to have an undetectable viral load.

As such, the CPSNS no longer has a separate stream for such registrants. The CPSNS does deem it prudent to obtain a fitness to practise attestation from the licensee’s treating physician and to have a requirement that this be provided periodically.

Motion

At the November 2022 meeting of the PDBNS Board the following motion was passed:

“That prospective or current licensees who self-identify as having a bloodborne pathogen be required to have their treating physician submit a fitness to practise attestation at the time of initial application and at annual license renewal.”

This would be the same process required for any physical or mental health condition which, if left untreated, may impair a registrant’s ability to practise competently and/or could negatively impact the safety of patients and/or staff.

EDIAA

At its May 2023 meeting, the PDBNS Board approved an Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Access, and Anti-Racism (EDIAA) Policy [accessible at this link](#). This is an internal document to guide PDBNS staff as well as members of the Board and its Committees.

DHW HEALTH WORKFORCE PLANNING

All Nova Scotia health regulators are required to submit registrants’ anonymized data to the Department of Health and Wellness (DHW) each year immediately following license renewal. The report based on the November 30, 2022 PDBNS data for dentists can be accessed [at this link](#).

DHW’s report for RDAs following the April 2023 license renewal is expected to be finalized in the near future and will be shared in due course.

FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS

Since the October 2022 Board Business publication, the Board made the following appointments and reappointments:

Complaints Committee

- Dr. Clare Champoux was appointed Chair of the Complaints Committee effective January 1, 2023.

Discipline Committee

- Ms. Karen Fitzner was appointed as a public member on the Discipline Committee for a three-year term effective June 1, 2023.

Mandatory Continuing Dental Education (MCDE) Committee

- Dr. Kevin Walsh was appointed Chair of the MCDE Committee effective January 1, 2023.

Dental Practice Review (DPR) Committee

- Dr. Daniel Albert was appointed to the DPR Committee effective January 1, 2023.
- Dr. Mariette Chiasson was reappointed Chair of the DPR Committee for a third and final three-year term January 27, 2023.

Registration Appeal Committee

- Dr. Terry Worthen and Dr. Sarah Fakhraldeen were appointed to the Registration Appeal Committee effective November 26, 2022.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chair and Vice-Chair

On January 1, 2023, Dr. Russell MacSween and Dr. Sunita Sharma began two-year terms as the Board's Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.

Members

On January 1, 2023 Dr. Erin Hennessey, Dr. Tim Silver, Dr. Phil Mintern, and Ms. Sherry Whyte-wood RDA began the first of three possible three-year terms on the Board.

BOARD COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

At the January 27, 2023 Board meeting, the following appointments were made:

- **Finance and Audit:** Dr. Tim Silver
- **Standards and Guidelines:** Dr. Sachin Seth, Ms. Sherry Whyte-wood
- **Human Resources and Governance:** Dr. Erin Hennessey
- **Registration Review:** Dr. Phil Mintern, Ms. Marina Crawford, Dr. April Nasson
- **Infection Control and Prevention:** Dr. Terrie Logue (Chair), Dr. Phil Mintern, Ms. Marina Crawford
- **Scope of Practice for Dental Assistants:** Ms. Marina Crawford (Chair), Dr. Erin Hennessey, Ms. Sherry Whyte-wood, Dr. April Nasson, and Mr. David Melvin

FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

The Complaints Committee met several times since the October 2022 Board Business and heard the following complaints.

October 20, 2022

The meeting on this date was cancelled at the request of the responding dentist due to health issues.

November 10, 2022

Case 1: The Committee heard a complaint against a dentist. The Committee passed motions to dismiss the complaint and to report the decision in publications of the PDBNS on an unnamed basis.

Case 2: The Committee heard a complaint against a dentist. The Committee passed motions to dismiss the complaint and to report the decision in publications of the PDBNS on an unnamed basis.

November 17, 2022

Case 1: The Committee heard a complaint against a dentist. The Committee passed motions to dismiss the complaint and to report the decision in publications of the PDBNS on an unnamed basis.

Case 2: The Committee heard a complaint against a dentist. The Committee passed motions to dismiss the complaint and to report the decision in publications of the PDBNS on an unnamed basis.

November 24, 2022

The meeting on this date was deferred to allow the Complaints Committee and the responding dentists time to review potentially pertinent material submitted to the PDBNS on the day before the meeting.

January 12, 2023

Case 1: The Committee heard a complaint against a dentist. The Committee passed motions to dismiss the complaint and to report the decision in publications of the PDBNS on an unnamed basis.

Case 2: The Committee heard a complaint against a dentist. The Committee passed motions to refer the complaint to the Discipline Committee and to report the decision in publications of the PDBNS on an unnamed basis.

(The details of this and any other referred complaint are not reported at this stage because, once referred, the ultimate determination of alleged breaches of professional standards rests with the Discipline Committee.)

January 19, 2023

Case 1: The Committee heard a complaint against a dentist. The Committee passed motions to dismiss the complaint and to report the decision in publications of the PDBNS on an unnamed basis.

Case 2: The Committee heard a complaint against a dentist. The Committee passed motions to refer the complaint to the Discipline Committee and to report the decision in publications of the PDBNS on an unnamed basis.

February 2, 2023

Case 1: The Committee heard a complaint against a dentist. The Committee passed motions to dismiss the complaint and to report the decision in publications of the PDBNS on an unnamed basis.

Case 2: The Committee heard a complaint against a dentist. The Committee passed motions to dismiss the complaint and to report the decision in publications of the PDBNS on an unnamed basis.

Case 3: The Complaints Committee approved and recommended to the Discipline Committee acceptance of a Settlement Agreement signed by the Registrar and a dentist, related to a complaint heard by the Complaints Committee in May 2022 and referred to the Discipline Committee.

February 9, 2023

Case 1: The Committee heard a complaint against a registered dental assistant. The Committee passed motions to refer the complaint to the Discipline Committee and to report the decision in publications of the PDBNS on an unnamed basis.

Case 2: The Committee heard a complaint against a registered dental assistant. The Committee passed motions to dismiss the complaint and to report the decision in publications of the PDBNS on an unnamed basis.

February 16, 2023

Case 1: The Committee heard a complaint against a dentist. The Committee passed motions to dismiss the complaint and to report the decision in publications of the PDBNS on an unnamed basis.

Case 2: The Committee heard a complaint against a dentist. The Committee passed motions to dismiss the complaint and to report the decision in publications of the PDBNS on an unnamed basis.

February 23, 2023

Case 1: The Committee heard a complaint against a dentist. The Committee passed motions to dismiss the complaint and to report the decision in publications of the PDBNS on an unnamed basis.

March 23, 2023

The Complaints Committee was scheduled to hear a complaint which had been lodged against two dentists in early 2022, the hearing for which had been deferred just prior to its November 24, 2023 date. The complainant withdrew the complaint shortly before the March 23 meeting.

The Chair of the panel expressed appreciation to the panelists for the significant time investment in preparing for the hearing of this resource-intensive complaint, and to the PDBNS for its significant investment of time and financial resources in the investigation process.

April 13, 2023

Case 1: The Committee heard a complaint against a dentist. The complaint centered around orthodontic treatment provided between 2012 and 2014. The Committee passed motions to issue a written reprimand to the dentist and to report the decision in publications of the PDBNS on an unnamed basis.

The Complaints Committee determined that by not discussing with the patient's parent the long-term objectives and limitations of the treatment, the dentist had failed to obtain informed consent. The panel also determined that the dentist had failed to maintain adequate dental records.

Case 2: The Committee heard a complaint against a dentist. The complaint centered around orthodontic treatment provided since 2021. The Committee passed motions to issue a written reprimand to the dentist and to report the decision in publications of the PDBNS on an unnamed basis.

The Complaints Committee determined that by embarking on treatment, the level of difficulty of which was beyond their scope, the dentist had failed to provide treatment to the patient with a standard of skill, knowledge or judgement that is reasonable in the practice of dentistry in Nova Scotia.

As well, the Committee determined that the dentist had breached the Section 6(b) of the [PDBNS Advertising Standards Regulations \(Regulation 4\)](#) by making reference to an area of practice in an

advertisement, announcement, or information without disclosing that they are a general practitioner.

May 11, 2023

Case 1: The Complaints Committee approved and recommended to the Discipline Committee acceptance of a Settlement Agreement signed by the Registrar and a dentist related to a complaint heard by the Complaints Committee in January 2023 and referred to the Discipline Committee.

Case 2: The Committee heard a complaint against a dentist. The Committee passed motions to dismiss the complaint and to report the decision in publications of the PDBNS on an unnamed basis.

Case 3: The hearing of a complaint against a dentist was postponed at the request of the Chair of the Complaints Committee who directed the Registrar to obtain an independent expert opinion from a medical practitioner to aid the Complaints Committee in their understanding of the case.

Summary of Decisions

Of the 18 complaints heard between October 2022 through May 2023 and referenced above:

- 13 were dismissed,
- 2 resulted in written reprimands, and
- 3 were referred to the Discipline Committee.

Trends in Complaints

A large percentage of formal complaints received by the PDBNS stem from communication issues, many of which specifically regard a lack of clarity for patients around fees for services rendered. It appears that most such complaints could be avoided if there were office protocols in place to ensure patients were aware of predicted fees prior to treatment, including examinations and radiographs. In the [PDBNS Informed Consent Guidelines](#) it is stated that *“Informed consent also ensures that the person understands.....the costs involved”*.

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

April 4, 2023

The Discipline Committee met and approved a Settlement Agreement signed by the Registrar, the Chair of the Complaints Committee, and Dr. Julie Knoll in accordance with Section 17(A) of the [PDBNS Discipline Regulations](#).

These proceedings followed a complaint which was initially heard in May 2022 and referred to the Discipline Committee. The Complaint pertained to a serious adverse sedation incident which took place in May 2022 involving treatment of dental disease for a 32-month-old patient under a combination of IM, nitrous oxide, and IV sedation.

In its investigation of the matter, the PDBNS Sedation Inspection Team found that Dr. Knoll had handled the medical emergency well. However, The Team reported that (considering the child's recent suspicion of and treatment for respiratory problems, the recent history of COVID-19, and the ambiguity around the child's medical history as obtained from the parents) the dental procedure should have been cancelled, at which point appropriate medical consultations and referrals should have occurred.

The Settlement Agreement contains Dr. Knoll's admission that she failed to treat a patient with a standard of skill, knowledge, or judgement that is reasonable in the practice of dentistry in Nova Scotia, specifically with respect to assessment and medical history taking for that patient.

The Settlement Agreement also contains agreed-upon sanctions, including:

- a contribution of \$5000 toward the PDBNS' costs to investigate the matter,
- the successful completion of a customized education module, and
- the following parameters on Dr. Knoll's practice of sedation: Mild, moderate, and deep sedation for ASA I and II patients aged four (4) and over; mild sedation for ASA I and II patients aged three (3) and under.

The sedation parameters set out above are not a negative commentary on Dr. Knoll's training or expertise. Rather, they acknowledge the risk to the public when deeper sedation modalities are employed outside a hospital setting on patients who are very young or not in optimal health. These parameters also reflect those for medical anesthesiologists in Nova Scotia when treating children outside a tertiary care pediatric hospital.

A copy of the executed Settlement Agreement can be found [at this link](#).

June 12, 2023

The Discipline Committee met and approved a Settlement Agreement signed by the Registrar, the Chair of the Complaints Committee, and Dr. Eun Jung Shin in accordance with Section 17(A) of the [PDBNS Discipline Regulations](#).

These proceedings followed a complaint which was heard in January 2023 and referred to the Discipline Committee. It pertained to an adverse sedation incident which took place in late 2022 involving dental treatment for a 7-year-old child using nitrous oxide and oxygen sedation. Dr. Shin's sedation permit had been suspended upon her self-reporting of the event in 2022.

A subsequent inspection by the PDBNS Sedation Inspection Team determined that Dr. Shin had failed to abide by many of the requirements for the administration of nitrous oxide and oxygen sedation as outlined in the [PDBNS Standard of Practice for Sedation and General Anesthesia in Dental Practice](#), not just for this patient, but as a common occurrence.

Among the criteria not met were:

- ensuring proper periodic inspection of equipment,
- updating of medical history to a standard necessary for the administration of sedation,
- obtaining informed consent to a standard necessary for the administration of sedation,
- instructions to avoid eating for 2 hours prior to the appointment,
- pre-operative and intraoperative monitoring of vital signs, and
- continuous monitoring with pulse oximetry

In Dr. Shin's meeting with the Complaints Committee in January 2023, she indicated that she had not been aware that there was a Sedation Standard in effect.

From the Complaints Committee's position, although there were no serious adverse health outcomes in this particular case attributable to the breaches of the Sedation Standard, the protocols set out in the Standard are of vital importance for public safety. This is particularly true for children where their physiologic reserve to withstand an adverse sedation event is more limited than for adults. Failure to abide by the Sedation Standard is a serious matter with potentially life-altering outcomes.

The Settlement Agreement contains Dr. Shin's admissions that:

- Dr. Shin's assessment and treatment of a patient and failure to obtain informed consent constitute a failure to treat a patient with a standard of skill, knowledge, or judgement that is reasonable in the practice of dentistry in Nova Scotia,
- Dr. Shin failed to abide by the [PDBNS Standard of Practice for Sedation and General Anesthesia in Dental Practice](#), and
- by not documenting preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative recordings, Dr. Shin failed to maintain adequate patient records.

The Settlement Agreement also contains agreed upon sanctions, including:

- the requirement for Dr. Shin to successfully complete a course in nitrous oxide sedation for dentists, as approved by the Registrar, at her own expense within 24 months of the date of the Order approving this Settlement Agreement,
- the suspension of Dr. Shin's Sedation Permit until such a date that the Settlement Agreement was approved by the Discipline Committee, and
- a contribution of \$5000 toward the PDBNS' costs to investigate the matter

In any of Dr. Shin's dealings with the Registrar, the Sedation Inspection Team, or the Complaints Committee, she was extremely receptive to feedback and eager to implement any necessary changes. This high degree of governability is quite reassuring in terms of public protection.

A copy of the executed Settlement Agreement can be found [at this link](#).

Decision to Publish on a Named Basis

The decision to have professional conduct proceedings published on either a named or an unnamed basis rests with the Committee hearing the complaint (by the authority of the [PDBNS Discipline Regulations](#)). The current trend is that complaints which reach the level of the Discipline Committee (and result in a Settlement Agreement or a full-blown hearing) are published on a named basis, barring exceptional circumstances. This is the contemporary standard in professional regulation.

MANDATORY CONTINUING DENTAL EDUCATION (MCDE) COMMITTEE

In early January, random sampling was conducted of all registrants whose MCDE cycle ended in December 2022. As in recent previous years, this sampling was conducted by [Dr. Samuel Stewart](#) of the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology at Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine. Those selected for audit (32 dentists and 44 RDAs) were contacted with a request to submit their MCDE log and verification by January 28, 2023. The MCDE Committee met on February 10 to review the submissions. 9 dentists and 7 RDAs were found to have incomplete audits. (In simple terms, they had not submitted satisfactory verification of continuing education to meet the requirements of the [guidelines](#).)

Each year, registrants who are deficient in their audits are required to make up for the shortfall prior to license renewal. By April 30 (the deadline for dental assistant license renewal) 6 RDAs had successfully completed their audits and renewed their licenses while 1 did not and was struck from the dental assistant register. The dentists with incomplete audits have until November to complete their audits, coinciding with their license renewal deadline.

Mandatory Medical Emergencies Course

Registrants whose current MCDE cycle concludes at the end of 2023 are reminded that they are in the first cohort for whom it is required to take a course on the management of medical emergencies in the dental office. An outline of the course requirements and links to acceptable course options can be found [at this link](#). (MCDE cycles are indicated on registrants' license cards.)

DENTAL PRACTICE REVIEW (DPR) COMMITTEE

In early January 2023 a random sampling process stratified by district was used to select 15% of licensed dentists in private practice to complete a self-assessment document. This process, the parameters for which are prescribed for the PDBNS under the [Dental Practice Review Regulations](#), was also conducted by Dr. Stewart. From those selected for self-assessment, 15% would be selected through random sampling as a subset for site visits (which is 2.25% of dentists in private practice).

On March 9, 2023 the DPR Committee met to review the self-assessment forms and determine if additional site visits are required beyond the 2.25% of dentists in private practice randomly selected.

The Committee identified 1 dentist whose self-assessment form triggered a site visit in addition to the 9 dentists randomly selected by Dr. Stuart's sampling. 1 dentist had not returned their self-assessment form and was therefore slated for a site visit. 34 dentists were sent letters from the Chair requesting that they confirm that certain modifications to their practices were implemented by a particular date.

Dentists are reminded that, according to present legislation, all dentists in private practice are eligible for random selection under the DPR process whether they are owner or associate dentists.

REGISTRATION APPEAL COMMITTEE

The Committee met on June 29, 2023 to hear an appeal from a dental assistant who had been denied licensure due to failing to pass an examination prescribed by current legislation for individuals who have not practised in the preceding five years.

In evaluating applications for dental assistant licensure, the Registrar is bound by the [Dental Act](#) and the [Dental Assistants Regulations](#). Section 27(2) of the Dental Act states the following:

"Where a person ceases to be engaged in the practice of dental assisting for the time prescribed by the regulations, the Registrar shall not issue to that person a licence to engage in the practice of dental assisting unless and until that person passes examinations prescribed by the Board and meets any other requirements imposed by the Board."

The Chair of the Registration Appeal Committee has yet to deliver the Committee's decision.

NOVA SCOTIA MASS CASUALTY COMMISSION

The [final report of the Mass Casualty Commission](#) was released on March 30, 2023.

“Volume 4: Community” sets out how Nova Scotians must invest in a public safety system in which multiple partners work together every day with substantial community engagement.

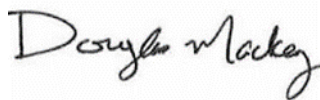
This volume has a dedicated a section pertaining to “Professionals, Front-line Service Providers, and Licensing Bodies” from page 497-502. This may be of interest since, as most registrants are aware, the perpetrator of the mass shooting was an oral health care professional. The behaviour of the perpetrator in his capacity as a denturist as described in this section is unsettling to say the least.

The Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network (of which the PDBNS is a member) is exploring ways in which the health regulators can respond to and act on the Commission’s recommendations in a consistent way.

THANKS

As I round the 2-year mark as Registrar, I would like to sincerely thank PDBNS staff, Deputy Registrar Dr. Curtis Gregoire, our legal counsel, and all members of the Board and Committees for their support and commitment to ensuring that the Provincial Dental Board fulfills its legislated mandate of protecting the public interest in matters related to dental care.

Have a great remainder of the summer,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Mackey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Doug Mackey, Registrar