

# BOARD BUSINESS

*From the Registrar's Desk*

No. 68, January 2019



## LICENSING REPORT

As of December 31, 2018 the number of licensed dentists, students, assistants and corporations are:

Year	DDS	Students	RDA	Corporations
2018	570	19	809	405
2017	556	18	778	419
2016	555	18	769	406
2015	539	17	791	416
2014	545	11	795	414

## FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

At the September 28, 2018 meeting of the Provincial Dental Board the following appointments were made:

Mandatory Continuing Dental Education

Dr. Erin Hennessy

Ms. Jacqueline Snooks



PROVINCIAL DENTAL BOARD OF NOVA SCOTIA

*Suite 103, 210 Waterfront Drive, Bedford, Nova Scotia B4A 0H3*    [www.pdbns.ca](http://www.pdbns.ca)

## FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

### **Complaints Committee**

June 25, 2018

The Complaints Committee met on June 25, 2018 with five cases being dismissed, one counsel and one letter of caution being issued.

### **Discipline Committee**

No activity to report.

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

The MCDE Committee met on February 2, 2018 to review submissions from dentists and dental assistants selected in the audit for the three year cycle ending December 31, 2017. Twenty-eight dental assistants were audited and one was struck for not completing their CE requirements. Seventeen dentists were audited and all successfully completed the audit.

### **Dental Practice Review (DPR) Committee**

All 2018 site visits have taken place over the summer and fall with Dr. Simone Abbass performing Halifax audits and Dr. Gillis performing audits in other regions of the province and as required outside of the audit process. Reports have been sent to the licensees audited for site visits in 2018. A site visit conducted by the Registrar resulted in a complaint against the dentist pertaining to recordkeeping. This matter will be investigated and brought before the Complaints Committee in 2019.

### **Registration Appeal Committee**

No activity to report

## **Review of Auditing Services and Recommendation**

A review of auditing services was conducted by the Finance and audit Committee through a request for proposals. At the September 2018 Board meeting the Committee provided the Board with its recommendation following a review of all proposals submitted for audit and accounting advisory services. The Board accepted the Committee's recommendation that Collins Barrow provide these services for a 3-year period at which time another review will take place.

## **Deputy Registrar**

At the September 2018 Board meeting the Board decided to initiate a job search for a Deputy Registrar who will work under the direction of the Registrar.

## **Deputy Registrar Position**

The Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia is established by the *Dental Act* to represent and protect the interests of the public in the practice of dentistry in Nova Scotia. The Provincial Dental Board is seeking a part-time Deputy Registrar. Reporting to the Registrar, the Deputy Registrar will assist the Provincial Dental Board in achieving its strategic goals and will be responsible for the management of essential programs with a focus on Mandatory Continuing Education, Dental Practice Review, complaints investigations and projects.

The Deputy Registrar will represent the Provincial Dental Board and may assume the responsibilities of the Registrar where necessary. The Deputy Registrar must be current in trends in dental practice and be committed to working with regulatory stakeholders both internal and external to the Provincial Dental Board.

Requirements for the position are: excellent oral and written communication skills, an open and solution-oriented attitude, strong interpersonal skills, and an ability to think strategically and objectively. The successful candidate must be registered and licensed, or eligible for registration and licensure as a dentist in Nova Scotia, and have at least five years of experience as a practicing dentist. Experience in administrative decision making and supervisory management is essential.

Applicants must forward a letter of application and a current *Curriculum Vitae* with two letters of recommendation to the Registrar of the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia, 210 Waterfront Drive, Suite 103, Bedford, Nova Scotia, B4A 0H3. All applications will be held in strict confidence.

The closing date for applications has been extended to February 15, 2019. All applicants will be acknowledged of receipt of their application and short-listed candidates will be interviewed. The Deputy Registrar will assume their duties in March 2019.

### **National Occupational Analysis (NOA) for Dental Assisting**

The National Dental Assistants Examining Board (NDAEB) and the Canadian Dental Assistants Association (CDAA) are conducting a National Occupational Analysis for Dental Assisting in 2019 and are requesting possible support options from each dental assisting regulatory authority. The Provincial Dental Board reviewed the points of consideration contained in the letter from NDAEB / CDAA dated August 21, 2018 and the Board's response to each point was:

1. PDBNS has agreed to provide continuing dental education category 3 credits for those licensees completing the survey. The number of credit hours given will be at the discretion of the MCDE Committee for those individuals who provide verification to the Committee that they participated in the 2019 NOA survey.
2. PDBNS would be open to hosting a focus group in Halifax in 2019.
3. PDBNS would contribute \$1 per licensed Registered Dental Assistant for the 2019 NOA project.
4. PDBNS would send a delegate to sit on the Steering Committee for the 2019 NOA project.

### **Out of Province Prescribing**

In Nova Scotia a pharmacist is able to dispense a prescription written by a prescriber licensed in a Canadian province outside of Nova Scotia. The exception would be for controlled drugs. In Nova Scotia, these need to be prescribed on a Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program (NSPMP) script. This requires an out-of-province prescriber to be registered with the NSPMP and have been issued a NSPMP prescription pad in order for them to write a prescription that can be filled in Nova Scotia. Other provinces with prescription monitoring programs likely have the same restriction.

## **Obstructive Sleep Apnea Guideline**

The Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia is undertaking the development of a Guideline on Obstructive Sleep Apnea. The working group tasked with this Guideline will use the College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia's *Guideline on Obstructive Sleep Apnea* as the framework document to base its guideline.

### **CBCT Guidelines: Education**

A letter was sent to the operators of the twenty-nine CBCT machines informing them of the CBCT course at Dalhousie and that this particular course would be the framework course that would be judged appropriate for the education and operation of CBCT machines in the future. It would not be the exclusive course but it would be something that other courses would be measured against. Once the CBCT Guidelines are passed later this year there will be activity by the CBCT Committee to determine what education would be deemed appropriate for the operation of these machines.

### **Scope of Practice Question: Removal of a healing abutment by a dental assistant**

There was discussion at the November Board meeting regarding the request by a licensee for a Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) being able to remove a healing abutment from an implant. It was agreed that this is not currently in the scope of practice for dental assisting. Following legislative amendments to scope of practice for dental assistants and advanced training (prosthodontic module), the Board would consider the RDA competent to perform this procedure. At the present time this procedure would not be allowable for a RDA to perform.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Martin Gillis, DDS  
Registrar