

# BOARD BUSINESS

*From the Registrar's Desk*

No. 59, May 2016



## RADIOGRAPHY INSPECTONS – QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### **Overview**

The Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia has established that regular Radiation Surveys will be conducted in all dental practices in the province and that the program will begin during the spring of 2016 and will continue until all offices have been inspected. A company that specializes in such surveys has been accepted to undertake the work. The company, Innovative Biomedical Engineering Ltd. (IBE), under the direction of Mr. Daniel Hanson, P. Eng. has been focussing its efforts on dental radiation surveys since 2000 and has completed this kind of survey work in British Columbia, the Yukon, and New Brunswick. The program has provided very useful information to dentists in these three jurisdictions and wishes to achieve the same for dentists in Nova Scotia.

### **Q 1. Why is this being done?**

A 1. No one argues that x-radiation can be harmful to patients, staff and the general public. The survey program will quantify the amount of x-radiation used by the dentists of Nova Scotia. In addition, it will examine both the facilities in which the radiation is produced and the manner in which images are generated to determine ways (if required) to keep x-radiation levels to an acceptable level.

### **Q 2. Is the inspection a mandatory requirement?**

A 2. Yes, all equipment must be inspected according to the *Policy on Radiography and Cone Beam Computed Tomography Inspections* (Board Business, April 2016).

### **Q 3. How often will surveys be conducted?**

A 3. As needed; or at intervals of 3 to 5 years.



PROVINCIAL DENTAL BOARD OF NOVA SCOTIA

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**Q 4. Who administers the program?**

A 4. The Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia.

**Q 5. How long does an inspection take?**

A 5. It takes about 2 – 3 minutes to complete a technical survey of a dental head, about 5 minutes for a Pantomographic or Cephalometric unit and about 15-20 minutes for a CBCT unit. In most cases, the room and staff surveys are conducted at the same time that the technical surveys are in progress.

**Q 6. Do I have to cease operations while a survey is in progress?**

A 6. No. We only require that patients not be in the room during the actual technical survey process. In a busy practice the technical survey can be conducted while staff is preparing for the next patient, the patient is taking a bathroom break or the room is unoccupied for any other reason.

**Q 7. Is staff time required to assist with the survey?**

A 7. In general, it is not required. It may be necessary to have staff on hand to set up equipment that requires special software access, passwords or special setup procedures. This is usually the case for digital equipment such as Pans, Ceph's or CBCT units. Once the setup is complete, (2-3 minutes at most) no further staff time is required.

**Q 8. How long does it take for the results of the survey to be known?**

A 8. Verbal information will be provided upon request to any question that can be answered immediately upon completion of the survey. In general, the results of a technical survey can be provided in "real time" if the person requesting the information wishes to observe the process.

**Q 9. What is a technical survey?**

A 9. This is the part of the program that analyzes the performance of any dental x-ray machine. It produces information about the dose delivered to the patient, the operating tube potential, the exposure time, the Kerma Area Product, beam area, Half Value layer of the beam, graphical information for tube potentials, instantaneous dose rate and integrated dose. In addition, the mechanical and electrical condition of the machine is analyzed and the results are presented. Most of this information is presented to the viewer within about 2 seconds following each exposure. A total of 5 exposures are required for a dental head, and 1-2 exposures for a pan or ceph unit. One or two exposures are required

for each operating mode for CBCT units. The technical survey is based on the performance requirements for dental x-ray apparatus as outlined in Health Canada's Safety Code 30 "Radiation Protection in Dentistry: Recommended Safety Procedures for the Use of Dental X-Ray Equipment" and the performance evaluations are established by a software program that is used worldwide in this field.

**Q 10. *Is the measuring equipment accurate?***

A 10. The equipment is calibrated to the National Bureau of Standards and calibration data can be provided if requested. Measurements are accurate to within +/- 5 % of the required set values.

**Q 11. *Is there reporting provided by the inspection program?***

A 11. Yes. A detailed paper report that covers each machine and room that was inspected is provided to the practice in a bound copy. The report covers exactly the information gathered during the survey as well as the date of the survey (to the minute) the identification of the equipment in terms of manufacturer, model, serial numbers etc. as well as the area in which the equipment is operated, ie. operatory number, room number as generally used by the practice. In addition, the underlying data is maintained by the program and follow up reports can be provided in pdf format upon request should a printed report become misplaced for any reason.

**Q 12. *Is the data secure?***

A 12. Yes. It is also protected by a confidentiality clause in the contract for service between IBE and the PDBNS.

**Q 13. *What happens if the practice fails to meet the requirements of the program?***

A 13. Initially, you will be provided with a "warning" that indicates the area in which improvements will be required. The "warning" will include a recommended course of action and you will be given a reasonable time frame in which to address this action. This is typically 90 or 120 days and will be determined by the Provincial Dental Board.

**Q 14. *When does the "clock" start running?***

A 14. Normally, upon receipt of the written report, the inspectors will attempt to provide information before leaving the practice so that owners or operators are aware that an action item is forthcoming.

**Q 15. *We rely on our service representatives to keep our equipment running. If something is found not to be as it should, how do we communicate the recommended course of action to our service representatives?***

A 15. The report provides all the technical information that a service representative requires in order to attend to the identified issue. Should he or she require additional information, telephone contact information is provided in the report and the surveyor is prepared to assist the service representatives as they may need it.

**Q 16. *Who is going to conduct the surveys?***

A 16. It is anticipated that the Chief Engineer will be the original surveyor and he will be assisted by his wife who has worked with him for 52 years in this field. Both he and his wife will conduct the surveys, review the data, prepare the reports, sign off on the reports and ensure that the written reports are prepared within an appropriate time frame.

**Q 17. *Is the Chief Engineer a Registered Professional Engineer?***

A 17. Yes. Membership is currently being arranged between the Chief Engineer, Daniel Hanson, P. Eng. and the Association of Professional Engineers of Nova Scotia. Mr. Hanson is currently a member in good standing with the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia and the Association of Professional Engineers of New Brunswick. He is bound by the bylaws of the Associations in each Province.

**Q 18. *Is there a "Reward" for achieving a successful survey?***

A 18. You will receive a sealed certificate of compliance that can be framed and mounted as you may desire. The certificate will reveal the date of the successful survey and the expiry date. The report will include a congratulatory letter as well.

## **FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

### **Discipline Committee**

Mr. John Scott was appointed as a public member to the Discipline Committee for a three year term.

## **CANADAN ASSOCIATION OF HOSPITAL DENTISTRY (CAHD)**

The Annual General Meeting of CAHD will take place in Halifax on May 13, 2016. A scientific session is planned with a keynote speaker and panel presentation on the topic of the importance of registries and

databases in clinical practice and research. There will be presentations of original research by general practice and specialty residents. Please visit the CAHD website at [cahd-acdh.ca](http://cahd-acdh.ca) for more information regarding membership and the AGM.

**DENTAL ASSISTANTS LICENSE RENEWAL COMPLETED**

The deadline for dental assistants to complete and submit their license renewal documents with payment to the Provincial Dental Board was Monday, May 2, 2016 at 4:30pm. Dental assistants will be receiving their new licence cards in the mail this month. Dentists should request their dental assistants provide proof of re-licensure by asking for a copy of their dental assistant's license card which should be kept on the office premises.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martin Gillis". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Martin Gillis, DDS  
Registrar