

**Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia
Meeting 2022 – 07**

Via Zoom Videoconference

Monday, October 24, 2022 @ 7:00 pm

A meeting of the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia was held on Monday, October 24, 2022 via Zoom Videoconference.

In Attendance: Dr. Shelly Anderson (Chair)
Dr. Russell MacSween (Vice Chair)
Dr. Daniel Albert
Dr. Kevin Walsh
Dr. Sunita Sharma
Dr. Terrie Logue
Dr. April Nason
Dr. Sachin Seth
Ms. Donna Rushton
Ms. Marina Crawford
Mr. David Melvin
Mr. Greg Fevens
Dr. Doug Mackey (Registrar)
Dr. Curtis Gregoire (Deputy Registrar)
Ms. Jane Donovan (Executive Assistant)
Mr. Chris Holland (PDBNS IT)

Guests: Mr. Tim Edlund, Softworks
Mr. Paul Blanchard, New Brunswick Dental Society

Agenda 1. Call to Order

At 7:01 PM the Chair welcomed Board members and called the meeting to order.

Agenda 2. Conflict of Interest Declaration

The Chair asked the Board if they had or were aware of any other Board members who had a conflict of interest with today's agenda. No conflicts of interest were identified.

Agenda 3. Approval of the Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda and noted a change to the format moving agenda item 12 to follow after agenda item 9. No additions were noted.

It was moved and seconded – Dr. Kevin Walsh & Dr. Sachin Seth

Motion 2022 - 72

“That the agenda be approved as presented.”

Motion Carried

Agenda 4. Alinity Proposal for Database Management

Mr. Tim Edlund, CEO of Softworks Group Inc. joined the meeting to present to the Board members the Alinity platform which is a cloud-based software framework designed for regulatory authorities and the management of their data.

Mr. Edlund presented some background information regarding the company and how Alinity incorporates best practices from over 45 client partners. Alinity is a web application organized into Registrant and Administrator portals with links embedded into our current website to support public-facing features.

Mr. Edlund then presented a short video which provided an overview of the software with a broad range of the features available. Mr. Edlund answered questions from Board members with respect to support, available modules, timing of implementation and customizations.

At 7:45, Mr. Paul Blanchard, Executive Director of the New Brunswick Dental Society (NBDS) joined the Board meeting to speak about New Brunswick’s experience with their use of Alinity.

Mr. Blanchard presented to the Board background information as to what led them to implement Alinity as their database management system. Overall, the NBDS has been very happy with Alinity and indicated that there were very few minor issues. He felt that Alinity was a very good fit for their organization so far and that they were working on the next phase of their implementation.

After both presentations the floor was open to discussion. There was some concern about the pricing of this undertaking and Board members wanted to make sure that this data management system would be a good fit for the Dental Board. Questions were directed to Chris Holland, the Board’s IT specialist and Ms. Jane Donovan, Board’s Executive Assistant as they would be working with Mr. Edlund and his team and they work with the current data on a daily basis.

After all questions were answered satisfactorily;

It was moved and seconded –Dr. Daniel Albert & Mr. Greg Fevens

Motion 2022 - 73

“That the contract with Softworks Group Inc. be signed and the PDBNS proceed with migrating its data management to the Alinity platform.

Motion Carried

Agenda 5. Fees for Sedation Permits and Facility Sedation Permits

The *ad hoc* committee that was formed to research and recommend a fee structure for sedation permits to be proposed to the Board met on October 18, 2022. The Committee, which consisted of Dr. Daniel Albert as Chair, Dr. Curtis Gregoire, Dr. Russell MacSween and Dr. Terrie Logue, felt that several things should occur. That there should be a credential assessment fee and that there should be some sort of annual facility fee depending on the modality of sedation being performed. There is a lot of work that goes into issuing these permits and performing facility inspections for which there is currently no fee applied. It was expressed that it is appropriate to institute fees with a view to approximating cost recovery for these activities.

After a lengthy discussion amongst the Committee and Board members;

It was moved and seconded –Dr. Daniel Albert & Dr. Sachin Seth

Motion 2022 - 74

“That, effective December 1, 2022, there will be a credential assessment fee of \$ 150.00 for new applications for permits to administer nitrous oxide and parenteral sedation.”

Motion Carried

And further;

It was moved and seconded – Dr. Daniel Albert & Dr. April Nason

Motion 2022 - 75

“That, effective March 1, 2023, all dental offices in which nitrous oxide sedation is used will be required to have a Facility Sedation Permit at a fee of \$150 renewable annually. With the renewal will be a self-assessment form with a checklist of criteria of facility requirements. These offices will be subject to facility inspections on a random basis.”

Motion Carried

It was moved and seconded –Dr. Daniel Albert & Dr. Russell MacSween

Motion 2022 - 76

“That, effective March 1, 2023, all dental offices in which parenteral moderate or deep sedation and/or general anesthesia is used will be required to have a Facility Sedation Permit at a fee of \$300 renewable annually. With the renewal will be a self-assessment form with a checklist of criteria of facility requirements. These offices will be subject to facility inspections once every three years.”

Motion Carried

And further;

It was moved and seconded –Dr. Daniel Albert & Dr. Terrie Logue

Motion 2022 - 77

“That a fee of \$ 300.00 be applied if the PDBNS Sedation Inspection Team cannot complete its facility inspection due to lack of preparedness for the inspection or compliance with the standard requiring a subsequent visit(s). The facility sedation permit will also be temporarily suspended until successful completion of the inspection.”

Motion Carried

Agenda 6. Fees for Application of Botox Permits

Dr. Curtis Gregoire provided some background information to Board members as to the amount of work that goes into vetting Botox courses as well as the review of applications and case submissions.

It was moved and seconded –Dr. Terrie Logue & Dr. Sachin Seth

Motion 2022 - 78

“That MOTION 2022-46 be amended and that effective November 1, 2022, the Application fee for a permit to use Botulinum Toxin C Type A and Esthetic Therapies in Dental practice be \$ 200.00 per application for Level 2 and \$ 400.00 for each subsequent level.”

Motion Carried

Agenda7. PDBNS Guidance for Registrants regarding Covid-19

Dr. Doug Mackey opened up the discussion by presenting some background information with respect to masking.

On March 21, 2022 the PDBNS COVID-19 Reopening Plan ceased to be in effect when the province ended its state of emergency. This was communicated to registrants in a March 19, 2022 Advisory. Registrants were reminded of various standard practices of infection control which are not specific to COVID-19 and were to remain in place. Registrants were also informed that mandatory masking would continue for dental offices to align with Dr. Strang's emphasis on continued measures for healthcare settings. In a July 6, 2022 Advisory, registrants were told that ***"The PDBNS will continue to align with Nova Scotia Health's guidelines for healthcare facilities, which includes physician's offices. As such, masks will continue to be mandatory for all individuals in dental offices. This applies to staff, patients, and others entering the office."***

Since then, we have had very few inquiries from dental offices about this policy but a larger number from members of the public. Most or all of the inquiries from dental offices were seeking guidance/support in how to manage a non-compliant patient rather than the office complaining about the policy. The staff's response to members of the public via email is as follows:

"Thank you for your email. The Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia (PDBNS) continues to align with Nova Scotia Health's masking policy for healthcare facilities including private ambulatory settings. As per page 5 of the Nova Scotia Health protocols updated on September 22, 2022, masks are required in waiting rooms."

A fulsome discussion ensued amongst the Board members and it was felt in the end that the Provincial Dental Board should continue to align itself with Nova Scotia Health.

It was moved and seconded –Mr. Greg Fevens & Dr. April Nason

Motion 2022 - 79

"That the PDBNS continue to align its masking policy for dental offices with that of Nova Scotia Health for ambulatory settings pending future re-evaluation."

Motion Carried

Motion 2022 - 80

It was moved and seconded -

"That the meeting be moved *in camera*."

Motion Carried

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 pm.

It was moved and seconded – Ms. Donna Rushton & Dr. April Nason

Motion 2022 - 81

"That the meeting be adjourned."

Motion Carried

Next Board Meeting – Saturday, November 26, 2022

Approved,


Dr. Shelly Anderson, Chair


Date