the Sentinel

A publication of the College of Dental Surgeons of

British Columbia for dentists and certified dental assistants

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First Clinical Practice Guideline for Early Detection of Oral Cancer

British Columbia is leading the way with the release of the first clinical practice guideline for the early detection of oral cancer in adults. Developed by the BC Oral Cancer Prevention Program of the BC Cancer Agency with the endorsement of the College of Dental Surgeons of BC, the Guideline provides dentists with recommendations about the appropriate use of oral cancer screening techniques.

"Our intent is to help dentists make informed decisions based on current accepted best practices and to facilitate clinical decision-making," says College President, Dr. Peter Lobb.

"The approach recommends a standardized step-by-step approach to screening and evaluating any mucosal lesion suspected to be premalignant or malignant."

continued on page 2

"Early detection has the potential to significantly reduce oral cancer deaths and morbidity," says Dr. Miriam Rosin, director of the BC Oral Cancer Prevention Program.



Early Detection of Oral Cancer

continued from front cover

Each year, approximately 3,200 Canadians are diagnosed with oral or pharyngeal cancer, resulting in 1,050 deaths. Of these, it is estimated that about 2,700, or 84 per cent, could potentially be detected by a dentist.¹

"Early detection has the potential to significantly reduce oral cancer deaths and morbidity," says Dr. Miriam Rosin, director of the BC Oral Cancer Prevention Program. "This Guideline is one of the core components of our oral cancer prevention program aimed at educating dentists about the latest developments in detection, diagnosis and care and how to incorporate these concepts into daily practice."

Each year, approximately 3,200 Canadians are diagnosed with oral or pharyngeal cancer, resulting in 1,050 deaths.

The Guideline was written by a multidisciplinary team composed of medical and dental clinicians and scientists from the Early Detection of Oral Cancer Working Group of the BC Cancer Agency in partnership with the College of Dental Surgeons.

"Due to the importance of ongoing research related to oral cancer screening, the Guideline will be updated regularly and we encourage practitioners to provide us with their feedback about the applicability of the Guideline to daily practice," says Dr. Lobb.

The online version of the Guideline for the Early Detection of Oral Cancer will also feature links to selected references for readers interested in additional information about oral cancer screening. The Guideline is available online at www.cdsbc.org and www.bccancer.bc.ca. The reference materials will be available in the April edition of the *Journal of the Canadian Dental Association*.

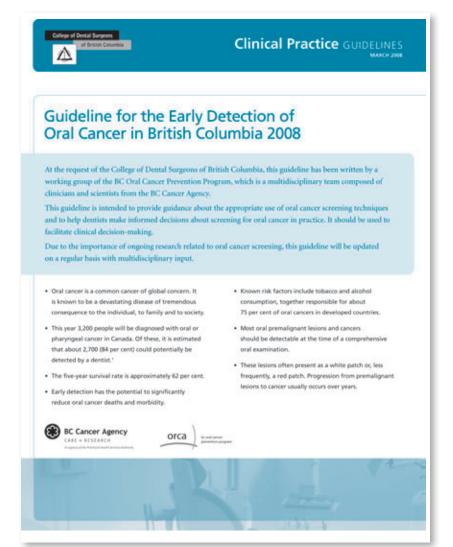
The BC Dental Association is fully supporting this initiative and the work of the Oral Cancer Prevention Program by designating oral cancer as the topic for Oral Health Month this April.

 Canadian Cancer Society, National Cancer Institute of Canada. Canadian Cancer Statistics 2007. pp 1-112. 2007. Toronto, Canadian Cancer Society. The Guideline recommends oral cancer screening as part of routine practice for all patients over age 40 and presents four essential steps:

- **Patient History** including family history of head and neck cancer, review of habits and lifestyle, and any symptoms and signs
- Visual Screening Examination including extraoral and intraoral examination, lesion inspection and documentation of findings
- Use of **Optional Screening Adjuncts** such as toluidine blue staining and direct fluorescence visualization with instruction that these techniques are complementary to and not a replacement for the comprehensive history and visual and manual head, neck and oral examination, and
- **Diagnostic Biopsy or Referral** to a BC Oral Cancer Prevention Program clinic or experienced community-based practitioner.



The April edition of the Journal of the Canadian Dental Association (JCDA) will be a special issue devoted to the early detection of oral cancer. It will feature detailed information on the resources developed by the BC Oral Cancer Prevention Program team for the screening and early detection of oral cancer. The electronic version of the JCDA featuring additional audiovisual resources will be available to all at www.cda-adc.ca/jcda.



The Guideline is available online at www.cdsbc.org and www.bccancer.bc.ca.

The BC Dental Association's 2008 Oral Health Month campaign will focus on raising public awareness about oral cancer and the importance of regular checkups to detect the early warning signs of this disease. For more information, check the large white envelope marked "Oral Health Month & Community Dental Day" sent to dental offices in early February or contact the BCDA at 604 736-7202 or ina@bcdental.org.



STICK YOUR TONGUE OUT AT YOUR DENTIST

April is Oral Health Month

IN BRIEF

Changes to Maximum CE Credits

Effective January 1, 2008, the College adopted the following changes to reduce or maintain the maximum allowable credits in two continuing education (CE) categories:

- Dental Practice Management to 30 credits from 54 for dentists and to 18 credits from 22 for CDAs, and
- Non-Clinical Dental to 15 credits from 20 for dentists and unchanged for CDAs to maximum of 12 credits.

The changes reflect the principles of CE programs for dentists and certified dental assistants that courses must have a significant connection to dentistry and enhance, or at least maintain, the registrant's competence to practise.

Information about these changes was reported in the Spring 2007 and Fall 2007 issues of *The Sentinel* and in the January 3 issue of the *Contact News Bulletin*.

REMINDER: Procter & Gamble Courses

The online self-study courses offered through Procter & Gamble Dental ResourceNet are eligible for one credit only per course.



The Pursuit of Excellence

Webster's Dictionary defines the term, "excellence," as "the quality of being excellent, or having outstanding quality."

When I graduated from the University of Alberta in 1975, excellence was a quality that was expected – the ultimate goal for delivery of dental care and professional conduct. It was the highest standard and we were challenged with an expectation – why should a dental professional expect to deliver anything but the best?

Excellence in dentistry might be a perfect colour match on an anterior crown, endodontic therapy that allows a tooth to be maintained for a lifetime or early diagnosis of a malignant lesion in the floor of the mouth that will allow successful treatment and long-term recovery.

During my term as president, I have taken this same expectation for the College of Dental Surgeons of BC and tried to make it a reality. In this challenge, I asked, "If we do not aspire to be the best that we can be, how can we expect to achieve all that is possible and how can we dream to be the best that we can be?"

Five years ago, I set out to create a College in which every dentist and certified dental assistant takes pride and in which every British Columbian has great confidence. Along the way, I have challenged each of you to be the best that you can be – in your daily lives and collectively as a professional group of people. While the journey has encountered a few bumps along the way, it has not been because we have lost sight of our ultimate goal.

Excellent outcomes at the College have included such things as respectful and timely handling of complaints, collaborative problem-solving and achieving a debt-free financial status with financial reserves to weather the unexpected challenges that lay ahead.

In B.C., we practise a world-class standard of dental care. We are a centre of excellence for leadership and progressive thinking. If we forget to realize that these aspirations and goals are really challenges, then tomorrow will only be a memory of what could have been. Along with this notion is the embodiment of the concept of "change" – for to improve is to change and with change comes the opportunity for a better tomorrow. Change undoubtedly brings feelings of

discomfort, yet with risk comes reward and I believe the challenge for "excellence" can motivate us to dare to believe in a better tomorrow.

Lofty thoughts – but then why should excellence not be the goal, as individuals and collectively as dental health care providers serving in the public interest and for the professional good of all British Columbians?

In B.C., we practise a world-class standard of dental care. We are a centre of excellence for leadership and progressive thinking.

College Releases Registrant Survey Results

Dentists and CDAs continue to give positive ratings

The results are in from our biennial random sample survey of B.C. dentists and certified dental assistants. The good news is that both groups of registrants continue to be pleased with the College's overall performance.

Our registrants' views are important because they are used to inform our planning and operations, ultimately helping us to be a strong and responsive regulatory body.

Here are the highlights:

Overall Performance

- Ninety per cent of dentists and 85 per cent of CDAs polled gave the College high satisfaction ratings.
- Among those who have had recent personal contact with the organization, 92 per cent of CDAs and 91 per cent of dentists rated their experience as being favourable.
- On both counts, positive ratings remain as high as they were in our 2006 survey.



Importance of Issues

- Regulating performance, ethics and maintaining the integrity of the profession were ranked by dentists as being the most important issues for the College in the coming year.
- Twenty-four per cent of certified dental assistants identified wages, working conditions and workplace respect as significant issues. It is important to mention, however, that the mandate of the College does not include advocating for wages and working conditions on behalf of its registrants. This is, rather, a function of member service associations, including the Certified Dental Assistants of BC.
- The regulation of promotional activities drew criticism from 25 per cent of the dentists polled. Of these respondents, 70 per cent said the College's promotional regulation is not rigid enough, while only six per cent believe it is too rigid. These results are timely because the College's Ethics Committee is in the process of reviewing the current Guidelines for Promotional Activities based on changes in legal opinion and the industry.
- While more than half of CDAs polled could not volunteer any area in which they felt the College could improve, 20 per cent of CDAs polled identified representation and services for CDAs as important issues.

Ninety per cent of dentists and 85 per cent of CDAs polled gave the College high satisfaction ratings.

Strengths

- Certified dental assistants said the College is performing particularly well with regard to
 - communications and providing resources,
 - ethical standards and professionalism, and
 - continuing education.
- When asked about areas in which the College excels, dentists cited
 - registration and licensing,
 - being approachable, and
 - communicating with registrants.

The results of the survey are encouraging because they reflect the College's goals of being responsive, professional and approachable in working with our registrants and members of the public.

The registrant survey was conducted in December 2007 with 250 randomly selected certified dental assistants and 250 dentists. Results are reliable within six percentage points 19 times out of 20.

Celebrating Our Centenary 100 Years of Quality Dental Care: 1908 – 2008

In March 2008, we proudly celebrate an historic milestone – the 100th anniversary of the self-regulation of dentistry under the *Dentists Act* and the establishment of the organization that is known today as the College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia (CDSBC).

The following is an excerpt from an article in the February 2, 1914, edition of *The Province* newspaper regarding amendments to the *Dentists Act* of that time:

"Briefly expressed, the prime object of the Dentistry Act is to make it impossible for anyone to practice dentistry in this province without having proved his ability to practice such profession capably and efficiently. Without such protection, you, Mr. and Mrs. Reader, and your children, would be absolutely at the mercy of any charlatan who could scrape together enough money to have a sign painted and rent an office, and enough gall to describe himself as a doctor of dentistry." Although it was written well after the implementation of the original "Act to Regulate the Practice of Dentistry in B.C." in 1886, *The Province* article provides some insight into the circumstances of the times and why there was a push for regulated dentistry.

When it was enacted in 1886, the first dental act provided for the appointment of a Board of Examiners by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to maintain a register and to make rules, regulations and bylaws to regulate the practice of dentistry.

While there are no doubt many who contributed to the beginnings of organized dentistry, Dr. Thomas Joseph

In 1908, the *Dentistry Act*, Chapter 2, was passed. The new Act provided for the election of a council by College members.

Jones earned a reputation as "the father of the profession" in B.C. An advocate of self-regulation, Dr. Jones presided over the B.C. Examination Board for 14 years and was the founder and first president of the BC Dental Society, established in 1891.

Excerpt from The Province, February 2, 1914

Dental Council Explains New Legislation for Protection of the Public

OULD you have a stonemason work on your teeth? A man may be a perfectly good stonemason and may know his business from A to Z, but you wouldn't have him crown your teeth nor execute bridge work for you simply because he was a good workman at his own trade,

Briefly expressed, the prime object of the Dentistry Act is to make it impossible for anyone to practice dentistry in this province without having proved his ability to practice such profession capably and efficiently. Without such protection you, Mr. and Mrs. Reader, and your children, would be absolutely at the mercy of any charlatan who could scrape together enough money to have a sign painted and rent an office, and enough sall to describe himself as a doctor of dentistry.

At the present session of the Legislature of this province, now being held at Victoria, certain and the are being introduced for the purpose of rendering the protection of the

In 1908, the *Dentistry Act*, Chapter 2, was passed. This legislation established the College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia as the body charged with the responsibility of regulating the practice of dentistry in B.C. The new Act also provided for the election of a council by College members. It is this milestone we commemorate this year.

Over the years, the College evolved to reflect changes in the world of dentistry. In 1951, the College became the regulatory body for dental hygienists, which in turn became its own self-regulating profession in 1995. In 1970, the organization began regulating certified dental assistants, as it continues to do today.

On March 6, 2008, the College officially celebrated its centenary with a special reception at its annual awards ceremony held during the Pacific Dental Conference.

To further honour this historic milestone, the College has developed a special 100 years logo, below, which will appear on *The Sentinel* flag, College letterhead and website throughout the year.

For more information on the dentistry of yesterday, visit the College website for a look at historical photos and documents at www.cdsbc.org.

College of Dental Surgeons



of British Columbia



"Mobile" chair and fast pedal drill used by itinerant dentist circa 1915 (right)



Vulcanite denture circa 1920s (above)



Photos courtesy of Dr. Ralph Crawford, Honourary Curator, Dentistry Canada Museum

CDA Regulation Update

NDAEB Exam Results



In 2007, Betty Larsen, Director of Operations & CDA Regulation, joined the board of directors of the National Dental Assisting Examining Board (NDAEB).

The NDAEB reported success rates of 100 per cent from 292 B.C. applicants who wrote the NDAEB exams in June and 98 per cent from the 51 B.C. applicants who wrote in September.

Betty Larsen

Mutual Recognition Agreement

The Mutual Recognition Agreement is a document developed and agreed to by all provinces regulating Level II dental assistants to allow for Canadian inter-jurisdictional labour mobility.

The College participated in a Dental Assisting Regulatory Authorities (DARA) meeting in Ottawa on September 26 and 27 to review the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA). An updated version of the MRA is currently being reviewed by all participating provinces.

What is a CDA Limited Permit?

limited permit enables a graduate from an accredited Level II program in B.C. to practise for a limited time while waiting to write the National Dental Assisting Examining Board (NDAEB) exam or while waiting to receive the results of the exam. Graduates who register with the College within three years of graduation and have declared their intent to write the exam may apply for this permit.

A limited permit is typically valid for three to four months, depending on the date of the pending exam and the permit expiry date. If an extension will be needed, application must be made before the original permit expires.

CDAs must meet the College's continuing education requirements to practise under a limited permit.

Dentists should be aware they can delegate all of the duties covered in Article 10.16 and 10.17 of the Rules under the Dentists Act to graduates with a limited permit. Dentists should check the expiry date of these permits.

Questions regarding registration, limited permits or continuing education should be directed to College licensing staff.

IN BRIEF

College Funds Advisory Program for CDAs

In recognition of the value of the Dental Professional Advisory Program (DPAP), the College is providing an operating grant for 2008 - 2009 to ensure the continued funding of the program for certified dental assistants in B.C.

Mark Your Calendars

The College's Elected Officers and CDA Council Members will be speaking at the following dental and CDA component society meetings. Come and learn more about the College's plans and activities.

Dental Societies

Upper Island April 4 Vancouver & District April 25

CDA Societies

Victoria & District March 25 Mount Arrowsmith April 8 Tri Cities April 10 Port Alberni May 26

Our Thanks

National Volunteer Week is April 27 to May 3. The College takes this opportunity to recognize and thank the many dentists, certified dental assistants and members of the public who dedicate their time and energy to serve as College volunteers. We could not accomplish all we do without your contributions!

Plans Unveiled for New Dental Clinic

Vancouver Dental Learning Centre

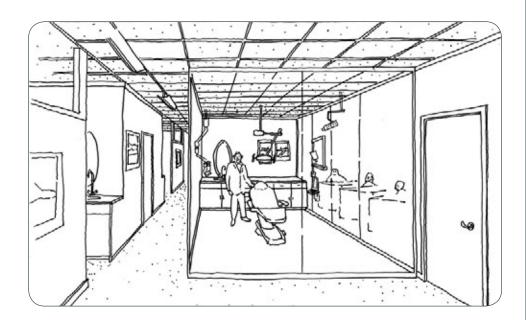
By this time next year, dental practitioners in B.C. will be able to learn and teach at an exciting new clinical facility planned to replace the aging dental clinic at College Place.

Plans for the proposed Vancouver Learning Centre, dedicated to Dr. Gerald Stibbs, include 11 state-of-theart operatories, a webcast-equipped operatory and a modern lecture classroom with direct access to the clinic floor.

One of the most exciting elements of the new Centre is the self-contained teaching operatory featuring high quality wall-mounted video cameras, a digital microscope and still cameras. A head-mounted camera worn by the treating dentist will allow practitioners across B.C. to view detailed procedures as they are being performed.

The transformation is being led by the Study Club Alliance of B.C., a volunteer organization formed by B.C. dentists last year to manage the revitalization of the clinic. The Alliance plans to initiate the \$750,000 renovation this summer.

"Our vision is to build on B.C.'s proud tradition of peer-based learning, fostered by participation in study clubs and continuing education activities," says Don MacFarlane of the Study Club Alliance. "The new clinic will increase the number of hands-on clinical courses offered in Vancouver, along with providing an accessible, top-notch facility that will benefit local study clubs as well as practitioners across the province."



The dental community has clearly demonstrated its support for this significant project. In December, the College Council voted to support the development of the clinic with a contribution of up to \$250,000. This builds on the commitment from the BC Dental Association of \$100,000 spread over five years, and the more than \$150,000 that has been pledged by individual B.C. dentists. The Alliance is also seeking corporate partners to help fund the revitalized clinic.

For more information or to make a contribution, contact Dr. Craig Naylor by phone at 604 734-4646 (dr.naylor@shawcable.com), Dr. Don MacFarlane at 604 736-7375 (smile101@telus.net) or Dr. Susan Chow at 604 228-0014 (drschow@shaw.ca).

A head-mounted camera worn by the treating dentist will allow practitioners across B.C. to view detailed procedures as they are being performed.

Council Highlights > December 8, 2007

Welcoming Remarks

The President, Dr. Peter Lobb, welcomed attendees to the last Council meeting of 2007. He acknowledged Council members and staff for visiting various component societies and schools to communicate with registrants and graduating students regarding College activities.

Managing Deputy Registrar

Dr. Ash Varma, Chair of the College Executive Search Working Group, provided an update on the search process for a new Managing Deputy Registrar and expects the search to be completed by mid-February.

Legal and HPA Update

The Registrar, Ms. Heather MacKay, summarized the status of College complaints, the *Health Professions Act* (HPA) and a meeting held regarding the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement between B.C. and Alberta.

Dental Clinic Update

Council voted to support the development of the Dental Clinic at College Place based on the vision presented by the Study Club Alliance in an amount of up to \$250,000. The terms and conditions of the contribution will be worked out in discussions between the Registrar and Elected Officers of the College and members of the Study Club Alliance.

College Finances

Dr. Bill McNiece, Treasurer, confirmed that the College is meeting its financial objectives. Council received the financial and monitoring reports.

Internally Restricted Funds

Funds from the net assets of the budget year ending February 29, 2008, were internally restricted for the following purposes:

- Transition to the HPA \$250,000
- Information technology project -\$500,000
- Assessment of international specialists - \$280,000
- Dental Clinic at College Place -\$250,000

Licence Fees

Council set the annual licence fees for dentists at \$2,483 effective March 1, 2008, which is a \$100 reduction from last year's fees. Fees for certified dental assistants remain unchanged at \$100 for practising and \$50 for non-practising.

Budget 2008-2009

Council approved a budget to finance the operations of the College and to provide grants to various organizations, including dental member service organizations.

Clinical Practice Guideline for Oral Cancer

Dr. Michele Williams, Oral Medicine Leader with the BC Oral Cancer Prevention Program (BC OCPP) of the BC Cancer Agency, presented a draft Clinical Practice Guideline titled *The Early Detection of Oral Cancer*. Council supported the partnership between the College and BC OCPP to create clinical practice guidelines and acknowledged the work of Drs. Williams and Rosin. Council approved in principle the content and format of the clinical practice guideline, which will be launched during the Pacific Dental Conference in March 2008.

Working Group on Clinical Practice Guidelines

Council approved terms of reference for the Working Group and appointed Drs. Karl Denk, Karen Gardner, Kitty Lam and Tony Semren as members.



Internationally Trained Dental Specialists

Dr. Peter Lobb provided an update on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was approved by all provinces on October 12, 2007. The College supports the principles of the MOU with respect to a uniform Canadian process for the certification and licensure/registration of internationally trained dental specialists. Council directed the Registrar and Elected Officers to develop a "CDSBC Policy Statement – Process for the Assessment and Registration of Internationally Trained Dental Specialists" for consideration at its next meeting on May 9, 2008.

The Registrar acknowledged the work of the President in attaining this achievement.

British Columbia Dental Association (BCDA)

Dr. Alastair Nicoll, Dr. Jim Armstrong and Ms. Jocelyn Johnston provided an overview of the activities of the BCDA on behalf of British Columbia dentists.

CDA Advisory Committee Report

Ms. Kathy Boyd, Chair, briefed Council on activities concerning certified dental assistants.

Prosthodontic Module

The College now has a licence with the Provincial Government that will enable it to make changes to the Prosthodontic Module. A working group will be created to revise this document.

Society Visits

Both CDA Council members, Ms. Boyd and Ms. Harvey, visited several CDA component societies across the province to inform CDAs of College activities.

Accredited Schools

The Committee will discuss registering of graduates from a non-accredited school and whether a timeline for schools providing Level II programs to become accredited needs to be incorporated into the Bylaws under the HPA.

College Election 2008

Council set the election date as May 22, with nominations closing on March 13.

College Centennial Year

Activities are being planned for 2008 to celebrate 100 years of regulation under the *Dentists Act*.

College Awards

The Election and Awards Committee informed Council that it will present awards to the following individuals for their contributions to the College and the profession of dentistry:

Honoured Member Award

• Dr. Edwin Yen

Distinguished Service Award

- Dr. Gordon Baynes
- Dr. Wayne Halstrom
- Dr. Bruce Ward

Award of Merit

- Dr. Roger Bailey
- Dr. Greg Card
- Ms. Bev Davis
- Dr. John Gould
- Ms. Debbie Horin
- Dr. Leetty Huang
- Ms. Karen Jones
- Dr. Roger Magnall
- Ms. Karen Manary
- Dr. David Prokopetz
- Dr. Sieg Vogt
- Dr. Bill Walter
- Dr. Christopher Zed

Certificate of Appreciation

- Ms. Kay Bremner
- Ms. Yolanda Olivotto
- Ms. Gerri Randall

They will be recognized at the College's annual Awards Ceremony on Thursday, March 6, 2008, at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel at 6 p.m.

the Dentists Act



Labour Mobility Update

The College recently participated in two meetings between the Alberta and B.C. governments and the regulatory bodies for dentists and CDAs to discuss how TILMA will apply to dentists and to Level II dental assistants in the two provinces. TILMA is the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement that is being developed to enhance the ability of workers to move from one province to the other and streamline business registration and reporting requirements. TILMA is anticipated to come into effect for dentistry within the year.



Address Corrections

Please note the following corrections to the 2007/08 Directory of Dentists. You may wish to cut out these listings and add them your copy of the directory.

Sections: Alphabetical Listing and Certified Specialists, Prosthodontists

Name	Address	Place/Year of Graduation	Reg Year
KLINE, T.S. (Terry) 604-261-6868	Faculty of Dentistry, UBC Specialty Clinic	Alberta/1955	1957
Fax: 604-261-6868 Email: tkline@relaxus.com	2199 Westbrook Mall Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3		
NASEDKIN, J.N. (Jonathan) 604-733-8205	#8, 2298 Pine Street Vancouver, BC V6J 5G4	Alberta/1959	1963

The Sentinel is published by the:

College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia

Suite 500 – 1765 West 8th Ave. Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5C6

Tel: 604 736-3621 800 663-9169 Fax: 604 734-9448 866 734-9448

Email: postmaster@cdsbc.org

www.cdsbc.org

Editor: Margot White

Contributors: Rochelle Blaak, Dianne Warnick

Readers' questions, comments and content suggestions for *The Sentinel* are welcome and may be forwarded to the Editor, c/o the College.

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The Sentinel and other communications circulated by the College are the primary sources of information about regulation for dentists and certified dental assistants in B.C. Registrants are responsible for reading these publications to ensure they are aware of current standards, policies and guidelines.

