



COLLEGE CONTACT

Volume 8, Issue 2

Fall 2000

Your "Contact Point" with the College of Denturists of Ontario

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the College of Denturists of Ontario is to regulate, govern and develop the profession of Denturism in Ontario while serving the public interest.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Please join us in showing our appreciation to the Patient Relations Committee for their efforts in producing this newsletter. Though the release of the Quality Assurance Program Manual has been slightly delayed, members are encouraged to keep their back issues of Contact for inclusion in their Manual / Professional Portfolio. Each issue will include updated guidelines or practice standards that should be kept for future reference. The CDO is mandated to protect the public interest through effective self-regulation. Effective self-regulation depends on the active participation of the professional members. Feel free to comment on the articles which appear in this and all future College Contacts. Your suggestions for future areas of discussion are always welcome as well.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNCIL AND NON-COUNCIL MEMBERS:

At the June 23, 2000 Council Meeting, newly elected professional member for district 5, Robert Gaspar, D.D., John Brereton, Public Member and John Matheson, Public Member were officially inducted as members of the CDO Council. Daniel Vorano, D.D., district 7 and Keith Collins, D.D., district 8 were re-elected to Council. Pino Di Nardo, D.D., Albert Esses, D.D., and Roy Todd, D.D. were appointed as non-council representatives on the CDO Committees.

During the course of the Annual General Meeting of the College, elections were held for professional and public members for the various statutory and non-statutory committees of the College. For more information about the composition of the various committees, please refer to page 2 of this issue of College Contact.

REGISTRAR'S MESSAGE:

Greetings from the Administration of the CDO. We are pleased that the Patient Relations Committee has taken on the daunting task of producing the College Contact members' newsletter. The committee anticipates that this will become a quarterly publication of the College which will provide valuable information about new practice guidelines and CDO initiatives. Should you have any comments or suggestions for up-coming articles, please send them to the CDO office for the Committee's consideration.

OPEN MEETINGS AND HEARINGS:

All CDO Council Meetings and Discipline hearings are open to members of the profession and to the general public. Meetings are generally held at a hotel in the vicinity of the College office. For more information regarding the date and location of up-coming open meetings, please call the office between 9:00 am. and 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday, at (416) 925-6331.

UP-COMING MEETINGS:

Friday, December 8, 2000
Friday, March 9, 2001
Friday, June 22, 2001

If you wish to attend any of the above meetings, please contact the CDO at least one week in advance to confirm your attendance as seating is limited.

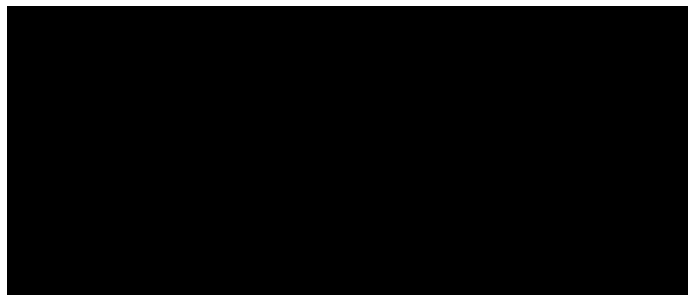
COLLEGE STATUTORY COMMITTEES:

Each year, Council and non-Council representatives have an opportunity to select the Committees on which they wish to serve. Below is the current composition of the CDO statutory and non-statutory committees:

<u>Executive:</u>	<u>Complaints:</u>
<u>Registration:</u>	<u>Quality Assurance:</u>
<u>Discipline:</u>	<u>Patient Relations:</u>
<u>Fitness to Practise:</u>	
<u>Qualifying Examination:</u>	<u>Finance:</u>

CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION:

The CDO welcomes the following individuals as new members of the profession in Ontario:



Congratulations to our newest registrants!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING:

- ◆ The administration, faculty and students of the George Brown College Denturism Program were congratulated on their successful accreditation.
- ◆ The College has hired a governance consultant to examine CDO policies, procedures and staffing levels as well as to assist Council in developing a strategic plan to better address our mandate.
- ◆ The CDO has responded to several Ministerial referrals to the Health Profession Regulatory Advisory Committee which may have direct impact on the scope of practice of denturism in Ontario.
- ◆ Though the release of the Quality Assurance Program manual has been slightly delayed, advertising has been secured for its publication and the CDO hopes that it's production and distribution will therefore be revenue neutral.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE:

Every three years, you have a chance to stand for election or nominate a colleague in your district. In the 2001 elections, the opportunity is available to all licensed denturists in districts 1 and 2. Nomination forms will be mailed in March for the Council position available in each district.

On Council, elected members sit side by side with members of the public appointed by the government and non-council member representatives of the profession selected by the Council. Together they establish the goals and policies of the CDO, shaping the future of the denturism profession in Ontario.

Being a Council member is a three year part-time commitment involving a number of responsibilities. Varied member backgrounds and experience assist in the consideration of issues from a broad perspective. A per diem is paid and expenses. Such as travel and accommodation are covered where appropriate.

Other opportunities for participation on College Committees are also available to professional members willing to serve as non-council representatives. If interested, please submit your resume in confidence to the attention of the Registrar, Jaro Wojcicky, D.D.

Please give serious consideration to letting your name stand. If you would like to receive more information on CDO activities please do not hesitate to contact the College at (416) 925-6331.

IMPLICATIONS OF BREACHING COLLEGE REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS:

THE COMPLAINTS PROCESS:

A complaint may be filed by anyone including a patient, the patient's family, an employer or another health care professional. Once a complaint is filed with the Registrar, the Complaints Committee must investigate the complaint and obtain all relevant information. The Committee would then determine an appropriate course of action, which could include referral to the Discipline Committee for a hearing, referral to Fitness to Practise to assess incapacity, a verbal caution to the member or dismissal of the complaint.

The Registrar may also initiate an investigation if there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe that the member has committed an act of professional misconduct. Such investigations will be reviewed by the Executive Committee to determine whether any action needs to be taken.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

Q. You find yourself attracted to one of your patients. What do you do?

A. Under provincial legislation you must transfer the care of that patient to another dentist before you can have a personal relationship with him/her. The same rule applies even if the patient initiates the relationship with you.

Q. How long should you keep patient records?

A. CDO proposed regulations state that records must be kept for a period of at least five years from the date of the patient's last visit.

Q. What are the minimum standards for establishing a denture clinic.

A. A denture clinic should be composed of:

1. Waiting Room
2. Washroom
3. Business Area
4. Laboratory
5. Operatory

Q. How much professional liability insurance do I need to carry?

A. CDO regulations state that all denturists in active practice must carry liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence.

COMMUNICATING A PATIENT'S MEDICAL HISTORY TO ONE'S STAFF:

The following standard reflects the CDO's understanding on whether a dentist can tell others in his or her office if a patient is HIV positive. This is, of course, quite sensitive information and many patients wish that such information be treated with the utmost confidence.

All practitioners engaging in procedures that can result in exposure to bodily fluids of patients should always practice universal precautions. These precautions should not be adopted only in cases where the practitioner perceives there to be a risk of infection, but rather be followed in all cases.

Where a dentist learns that a patient is HIV positive, that pertinent part of the patient's history should be recorded in the patient's chart. Unless there is discussion to the contrary, there is a reasonable expectation that others in the dentist's office who have a legitimate reason to do so (e.g., the assist in treatment, to make entries in the record, to file the records) will have access to the patient's chart. Also, others in dentist's office can be told of the patient's HIV status if they are at risk of exposure to have exposure to the patient's bodily fluids.

Denturists are strongly urged to have signed confidentiality agreements with their staff. An example a provision in such an agreement is as follows:

I acknowledge that I understand that Denturists have an obligation to ensure that all client information is kept confidential. As such I will seek access to client information only to the extent necessary for me to perform my duties and I will ensure that I disclose client information only with client consent or with the authorization of the Denturist. I understand that unauthorized disclosure of client information may be grounds for terminating my position.

Disclosure of the information to clinical practitioners outside of the office is more troublesome. It is less common for patients to have a reasonable expectation that a dentist will disclose clinical information to others outside of the office, even where the other person is part of the oral health care team. It would be prudent for the dentist to obtain express consent for the release of all medical information, or specifically of the patient's HIV status, before making disclosure of the HIV status to others outside of the office. Express consent is preferably in writing, but the consent may be given verbally. Please note that verbal consent should be noted in the patient's chart.

Adopted by Council September 29, 2000

WHY DOES THE COLLEGE EXIST:

Under the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, the duty of each College is to serve and protect the public interest by following the objects of the legislation. The objects of the College of Denturists are:

1. To regulate the practice of Denturism and to govern the members in accordance with the Health Professions Act, this Code, the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, and the regulations and bylaws.
2. To develop, establish and maintain programs and standards of qualifications for persons to be issued certificates of registration.
3. To develop, establish and maintain programs and standards of practice to assure the quality of the practice of the profession.
4. To develop, establish and maintain standards of knowledge and skill and programs to promote continuing competence among the members.
5. To develop, establish and maintain standards of professional ethics for the members.
6. To develop, establish and maintain programs to assist individuals to exercise their rights under the Code, and the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*.
7. To administer the *Denturism Act, 1991*, and the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, as it relates to the profession and to perform the other duties and exercise the other powers that are imposed or conferred on the College.
8. To consider any other objects relating to human health care that the Council considers desirable.

LABOUR MOBILITY UP-DATE:

On June 11, 2000 at the DAC Congress in Ottawa, the CDO proudly became a signatory to the Mutual Recognition Agreement for Denturists in Canada. Subsequently, on June 23, Council approved that same agreement. Since that time the amendments to the Registration Regulation which would be required to comply with the agreement have been circulated to the members and are now before the Ministry of Health. The College will keep members posted of any new developments.

WHAT'S COMING UP:

As part of the College's commitment to fulfilling its mandate under the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, the Communications Committee which was formerly responsible for the publication of College Contact has been disbanded. The Patient Relations Committee has assumed the responsibility for this project as an ongoing measure to promote professional competence and awareness of the regulatory issues and responsibilities of denturists in Ontario.

Developments in the area of professional competence are profoundly impacting the practice of denturism, self regulation and public protection in Ontario. This newly re-instituted newsletter will detail how these changes are impacting your practice.

Other sections of the Contact will continue to provide newsworthy College and Council information, regulation and guideline changes, and statistical information on practice trends in Ontario. Circulation of the newsletter will take place four times per year.

Members are strongly urged to keep their back issues of College Contact as quick reference tools regarding CDO Standards and Guidelines. Continued competence will be a major component of the soon to be released Quality Assurance Program.

We look forward to receiving your comments and feedback following the distribution of each issue.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

To express your views on editorial content or on any College matter, please contact the Editorial Board / Patient Relations Committee (Harry Orfanidis, Carlo Di Nardo, John Brereton and Jaswinder Johal with administrative support from Michelle Kennedy) by mail, fax or e-mail.

HOW TO CONTACT THE COLLEGE:

Telephone: (416) 925-6331
Facsimile: (416) 925-6332
E-Mail: collegecdo@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: 903 - 180 Bloor Street West
Toronto ON M5S 2V6
Business Hours: Monday to Friday
9:00 am. to 5:00 p.m.