

**INQUIRY COMMITTEE
RECORD OF DECISION**

File Reference: DH1801

ELEMENTS OF COMPLAINT

On July 5, 2018, a staff member with the College of Dental Hygienists of British Columbia (the "College") advised the Inquiry Committee that a Registrant may have engaged in unethical and unprofessional behaviour by submitting a false prescription and may have engaged in conduct outside the scope of practice of a dental hygienist.

The CDHBC Inquiry Committee initiated an investigation under s. 33(4)(a) of the *Health Professions Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 183 (the "Act") to determine whether the Registrant had engaged in the in unethical and unprofessional behaviour by submitting a false prescription and in conduct outside the scope of practice of a dental hygienist.

On March 5, 2018, the Inquiry Committee appointed an inspector to assist with the investigation.

On March 6, 2018, the CDHBC Registrar notified the Registrant of the investigation and the Registrant was invited to submit a response in accordance with s. 33(5) of the Act.

On April 2, 2018, the College received a response from the Registrant in which s/he advised that s/he had been unaware that s/he was not allowed to prescribe Peridex and apologized for his/her misunderstanding.

On April 4, 2018, the Registrant's employer contacted the College to apologize for this occurrence and to assure that it was a one-time event. The employer also advised that the Peridex company supplies the dental office with the prescription pads that come pre-printed with the dentist's name and the prescription. As a consequence, all that is required is to insert the patient's name and a signature from the prescriber.

On April 19, 2018, the College received the inspector's report, a copy of which was provided to the Registrant for review.

On April 24, 2018, the College received a written response from the Registrant confirming that report was an accurate reflection of what occurred.

COMMITTEE DECISION

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Inquiry Committee was concerned that the Registrant had engaged in conduct outside the scope of practice of a dental hygienist.

In accordance with section 33(6)(c) of the Act, the Inquiry Committee determined this would be an appropriate case to seek a consent order under s. 36 of the Act because the Registrant acknowledged and apologized for issuing a prescription and practicing outside the scope of dental hygiene.

Under terms of the Consent Order, the Registrant:

- undertakes not to repeat the conduct of practicing dental hygiene outside the scope of practice by issuing a prescription.
- undertakes and consents to write a reflective essay of not less than 1200 words outlining his/her understanding of the dental hygiene scope of practice and the standards of practice (with appropriate references), and to submit the draft essay for approval to the Inquiry Committee within sixty (60) days of the date of this Consent Order and to make such changes to the essay on the terms directed by the Inquiry Committee if it is not satisfactory.

RELEVANT PROVISION OF ACT, REGULATION OR BYLAWS

Act, section 13; 33(4); 33(5); 33(6)(c)

STATUS

Closed.