

Regulation Proposal to Enhance Access, Clarity and Choice

March 17, 2016 – Pacific Dental Conference, Vancouver BC

During the Dental Hygiene Forum at the Pacific Dental Conference the College of Dental Hygienists of BC (CDHBC) presented its proposal that, if accepted by government, will update the CDHBC Regulations and Bylaws to enhance access, clarity and choice.

The College is proposing to change the CDHBC Regulations as follows:

- Remove the 365 Day Rule for all registrants
- Remove the 'dentist on site' requirement for L/A administration
- Ensure the ability to take and interpret radiographs are contained in the regulation
- Provide for limited prescribing ability for Dental Hygiene Practitioners.

The College also presented a proposal to change the registration bylaws to redefine the categories of registration:

- Registered Dental Hygienist
- Dental Hygiene Practitioner

The 'Registered Dental Hygienist' will replace the current 'Full' and 'Conditional' registration categories. Registrants in this category will be fully self-initiating and can practice the full scope (except for prescribing). This category will be a diploma level entry.

The 'Dental Hygiene Practitioner' category will replace the current '365-exempt' registration category. Only registrants in this category will be permitted to be the primary owner and operator of an independent practice. They can practice the full scope, including prescribing after completion of approved education. This category will be a degree level entry.

This proposal is the result of significant consultation and work. Starting in 2012, the College began consulting with registrants through the BCDHA. Since that time, the College has consulted with the public, the government, other health colleges, other health care groups, and then again with registrants in 2016.

Government is currently in the process of updating the regulations of all the colleges governed by the *Health Professions Act* to a new model of regulation. Our regulations have been identified by government as requiring an update. Therefore, we feel that this proposal represents the right changes to make at the right time.

It is important to note that this is only a proposal that will be made to government when it is our time to be considered. Nothing is changing today and registrants should continue to practice under the existing regulations and bylaws.

Over the coming months, the College will continue to communicate with registrants as well as other stakeholders to seek feedback on this proposal. Please stay tuned to the CDHBC website and your email for further updates and opportunities to engage with the College as we strive to enhance access, clarity, and choice through regulatory excellence.

These proposed changes will:

- ✓ Enhance public safety
- ✓ Increase access to care for the public
- ✓ Clarify the current scope of practice
- ✓ Support choice for the public and for dental hygienists

[Please click here for an FAQ on the proposed regulation and bylaw changes](#)

