



COLLEGE OF DENTURISTS OF ONTARIO

CDO Council Highlights from March 1, 2013 and Supervisor's Update

Registrar Search Update

The search for a new Registrar for the CDO is officially underway. Ms. Williams has appointed a search committee that includes three current CDO Council members: A. Kiriakou (President and public member); P. McCabe, DD (elected member, on Executive Committee and Council); K. Collins, DD (elected member of Council); M. Salvatori (Registrar, Ontario College of Teachers) and herself.

Applications closed on February 28, 2013 and candidate screening and interviews will be held throughout March/early April. The hope is to have a new Registrar in place for the next Council meeting, which will be held in June.

CDO Qualifying Examination - NOTICE OF CHANGES FOR 2013 AND 2014

SUMMER 2013

Effective this summer, the College will not release dentures made in the examination (Project D) to successful examination candidates for release to their patients who participated in the exam.

This new policy, which will take effect this summer, has been posted on the CDO website and communicated to both George Brown and Trillium Colleges. This change will also be reflected in the CDO 2013 Summer Qualifying Examination Candidate Protocol which is currently under revision.

Notice is being given to all 2013 examination candidates as they inquire about the exam. The supervisor will also be speaking personally to students and staff at both schools and exploring ways in which the schools may assist students in obtaining the services of suitable patient subjects for the summer clinical examination. It is suggested that Ontario students could consider, as an alternative, the process employed in other jurisdictions, such as Alberta, where successful candidates are encouraged to offer to make their patient subjects a complimentary set of dentures as a thank you once they are registered denturists.

SUMMER 2014 - NOTICE TO EXPECT SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Notice is now being provided that significant changes will be coming in 2014 and that this is the last year that the CDO Qualifying Examination will be offered in its existing form and format.

The supervisor has begun work, in collaboration with members of the Qualifying Examination and Curriculum Committee, members of the examiners group, members of the profession and denturist educators to determine what a new, competency-based qualifying examination for 2014 should look like.

The current qualifying examination, which includes a written component and a four part practical/clinical component (partial projects A, B, and C and a complete set of dentures-project D) is long, and costly to both the College and exam candidates. It is evident that in its current form, the examination is simply non-sustainable from a financial or human resources perspective.

While national licensing examination for denturists in Canada, based on the national competency profile currently in development is the ultimate goal within the next 5 years, some changes are needed now to ensure that the College can continue to administer an examination in the interim that is both a quality exam and sustainable.

Members, students, and educational institutions will be kept apprised as changes to the existing examination are proposed and adopted. We will communicate often and as clearly as we can to help ensure a smooth transition to a new and different examination process in 2014 and beyond.

Proposed Quality Assurance and Registration Regulations Update

Council received feedback from individual members, the Denturist Association of Ontario, other stakeholders, and other regulatory bodies respecting both the College's proposed Quality Assurance and Registration regulations which were circulated for comment.

Because of the very short timeline between when feedback was requested (February 25) and the CDO Council meeting on March 1st, it was agreed that more time is needed for Council and the respective committees to fully digest and understand the feedback received and the corresponding implications for the proposed regulations.

Accordingly, the Quality Assurance and Registration Committees will review and consider feedback received and report back to Council at its next meeting in June.

CDO Position - Use of Oral Cytology Testing Kits

The College was asked by the Denturist Association of Ontario (DAO) whether it considers the use of oral cytology testing kits by denturists appropriate.

College Council has approved a response based on the following position:

The College does expect denturists to conduct appropriate oral assessments on their patients in the course of providing denturist services, but the College does not consider the use of oral cytology testing kits to fall within the ambit of the current scope of practice or controlled act for Denturism in Ontario.

Further, the College expects a denturist who detects anything outside of a normally expected observation to refer that patient to a dentist or medical practitioner in a manner that leaves the patient, or their personal representative, absolutely clear that they have NOT received a diagnosis from the denturist.

CDO Position on Bruxism Guards

The College was asked by the Denturist Association of Ontario (DAO) whether bruxism guards fall within the scope of practice for Denturism in Ontario.

College Council has approved a response based on the following position:

The current scope of practice, as set out in the *Denturism Act* is “*the assessment of arches missing some or all teeth and the design, construction, repair, alteration, ordering and fitting of removable dentures*”

Denturists are NOT authorized to perform that controlled act of “*fitting or dispensing a dental prosthesis, orthodontic or periodontal appliance or a device used inside the mouth to protect teeth from abnormal functioning*”

It is the College’s view that bruxism guards are designed to protect teeth from abnormal functioning and that the fitting and dispensing of these requires a controlled act not currently authorized to denturists in Ontario. Accordingly, it is the College’s position that the fitting or dispensing of bruxism guards do not fall within the current scope of practice or authorized controlled act for Denturism in Ontario.

2013/2014 Continuing Education Program Manual

Council reviewed and approved the proposed 2013/2014 *Continuing Education Program Manual*, which reflects Council’s approved changes to the Continuing Education policy in December 2012.

A number of amendments were necessary to clarify the document’s regulatory wording, but also to reflect changes in response to membership feedback, continuing education submission processes, as well as adjustments to continuing education limits (e.g. increasing maximum credit hours for contributions to professional organizations in roles such as assessors, examiners, item writers/developers). The *2013/2014 Continuing Education Program Manual* is now posted on the CDO website.