

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR DENTAL BOARD
Office of the Registrar
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STRICTLY PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL
Minutes of the Newfoundland & Labrador Dental Board Meeting

A meeting of the Newfoundland & Labrador Dental Board was held on Thursday, February 23, 2023, at the Board office.

In Attendance: Dr. Paul O'Brien, Dr. Linda Blakey, Dr. Sneha Abhyankar, Dr. Paul Hurley, Dr. Patrick Snow, Mrs. Joan Lamswood, Mrs. Paula Parsons, and Mr. Craig Finch. Absent Dr. Sheldon Best.

Introduction and Appointments

The Registrar welcomed the new members to the Board, Dr. Patrick Snow and Dr. Sheldon Best. With the completion of Dr. Jerome Johnson's tenure as Chair of the Board, historically the Vice Chair assumes the position of Chair. Dr. Linda Blakey therefore will assume the role of Chair and was also appointed as Chair of the Complaints Authorization Committee.

Dr. Sneha Abhyankar let her name stand for Vice Chair and following a call for further nominations, Dr. Abhyankar was elected by acclamation.

Mrs. Joan Lamswood agreed to accept the newly created position of Treasurer. Both Dr. Blakey and Mrs. Lamswood will act as signing officers, only one of those signatories is required in addition to the Registrar.

Motion to approve the appointment of Mrs. Joan Lamswood as Treasurer. Moved and Seconded by Dr. Sneha Abhyankar and Mr. Craig Finch. Motion Carried.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Moved and Seconded by Dr. Sneha Abhyankar and Mrs. Paula Parsons. Motion Carried

Approval of July 9, 2022 Minutes

Motion to approve as presented. Moved and Seconded by Dr. Patrick Snow and Mrs. Joan Lamswood. Motion Carried.

Position Paper

The Registrar presented a Position Paper on the Dental Act, Regulations, By Laws, Standards of Practice, Guidelines, Policies and Permits. Its purpose is to describe functions of the Board that are not particularly defined in the Dental Act.

Standard of Practice # 7 – Botox

Dr. O'Brien presented a draft document for a Standard of Practice for Botox. Following discussion, it was agreed the Registrar will revise the document adhering to recommended modifications.

Motion: The Board accepts the Draft document for a Standard of Practice# 7 - Botox as presented with the recommended modifications. Moved and seconded by Dr. Paul Hurley and Dr. Sneha Abhyankar. Motion Carried.

Further, the CE Committee will be advised of the requirement for specific Continuing Education in the field of facial esthetics and adjunctive procedures for dentists with certificates to provide the care outlined in the Standard of Practice. This CE will be required in their CE cycle to maintain certification.

Dental Anesthesia Recognition as a Specialty

CDRAF received an application from the Canadian Academy of Dental Anesthesia (CADA) to recognize Dental Anesthesia as a Specialty in Canada. At a recent meeting of CDRAF approval was granted for its recognition. The Registrar will make a request to Government to amend the Dental Regulations recognizing this Specialty as a branch of Dentistry.

Development of an Inspection Program for Sedation/General Anesthesia

Presently the Board has adopted a Guideline for the Use of Sedation & GA. Further to the discussion from a previous meeting, the Registrar researched some of the other provinces and found that many have adopted either a standard of practice or a guideline for in-office services for sedation modalities. The Registrar recommends the development of an Inspection Program for Sedation and General Anesthesia and presented a document to assist with the development and asked members to review. The development of this program will require forming an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of an Oral Surgeon, two General Dentists, one who administers the service, and another to represent the interest of all dentists and a Board representative. The Registrar will reach out to possible candidates for this Committee.

Oral Radiology

All DRAs received correspondence from the Canadian Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology with concern for Oral Radiologists sending radiographs out of the country for Oral Radiology opinions. Members agreed that CDRAF may be in the best position to respond to this concern and not individual DRAs.

Transfer of Radiographs – Dental Hygienists

The Registrar received correspondence from the Council of Health Professionals regarding the level of supervision required for dental hygienists taking radiographs. They requested the Board's clarification on "direct supervision". The Registrar reviewed the Board's response.

The Board also received inquiries from dentists concerning proper protocol for the transfer of radiographs to independent dental hygiene clinics. Discussion ensued. The Registrar will review and amend the current policy on Transfer of Records, in particular the transfer of radiographs to other oral health care providers for review at the next Board meeting.

Dental Assisting Scanning

The Board received enquiries as to whether Level 1 dental assistants are permitted to use intra-oral scanners. Currently the Dental Auxiliaries Regulations lists the scope of practice for unlicensed dental assistants and intra oral scanning is not included. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that this will be given more consideration in the future as amendments are made to the Auxiliary Regulations.

C. T. Scanning

Currently there are no policies or guidelines for the use of CT Scanners, and it appears their use is becoming more prevalent in the dental offices. The Registrar will investigate a possible plan for the development of a guideline or policy with an interested registrant.

Dental Assisting Direct & General Supervision

An Orthodontist has reached out to the Board requesting consideration for an amendment to the Auxiliary Regulations to include remote assisting in Orthodontics. This would allow a Registered Dental Assistant with an Orthodontic Module to do minor procedures without the direct supervision of a dentist, in particular if patients were to present with a long arch wire etc. and orthodontic records (pan, cephs, photos and digital scans) but with a prescription from the Orthodontist. Research from other provinces indicates direct supervision is required. Discussion ensued. It was agreed to table this request for the next meeting as we gather more information. The Orthodontist will be advised.

Dental Therapy

A new Dental Therapy program has been announced at the University of Saskatchewan for April 2023.

Next Meeting

There was interest in holding the AGM in June at the NLDA Convention if space and time permitted. We will check with the NLDA. Members will be notified of next meeting date.

Meeting Adjournment

There being no further business there was a Motion to adjourn – Moved and seconded by Dr. Linda Blakey and Ms. Paula Parsons. Motion Carried.