

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: MEETING SUMMARY

FOR INFORMATION

This document provides a summary of the Executive Committee meeting held on January 30, 2024.

Discussion and information items

Professional Liability Program update

Registrar and CEO Dan Faulkner reported that since the December 7, 2023, Council meeting, he and staff have consulted with legal counsel and met with four prospective firms that would advise the College on the divestment process. A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be prepared with proposals due by February 13, 2024.

The firms must provide cost estimates, and the 2024 PLP budget of \$150,000, which covers a Project Manager and legal fees, does not include costs for a mergers and acquisitions expert. The Executive Committee will need to approve any additional costs.

Mr. Faulkner requested that three Council members (Marc Trudell, James Colliver, and Mark Eckler) join a committee with the Registrar and Chief Financial Officer to guide the divestment process and make recommendations to the Council. The Executive Committee confirmed the appointments.

Partners and Collaborators

Senior College staff recently met with leadership members of Public Health Ontario (PHO) to discuss collaboration with Ontario's 36 public health units.

Mr. Faulkner reported that the Deputy Registrar and the Director of Communications recently met with the Assistant Deputy Minister of Health and the Ontario Fairness Commissioner to keep them informed on the College's registration practices and timelines, as well as work with the NDEB on examination processes.

No concerns were raised with the College about the time taken to register internationally trained dentists by the RCDSO.

Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP)

Mr. Faulkner reported that Health Canada continues to provide details on how CDCP will be administered.

The Executive Committee (EC) was asked to consider three issues:

Q: Will the College consider participation by dentists in the CDCP as mandatory?

A: The EC emphasized that the solution to participation will be achieved through collaboration and engagement with the profession.

Q: Will the College/does the College prohibit balanced billing by the profession for government-sponsored programs?

A: Dentists are advised not to perform balanced billing when it is explicitly prohibited by a current government-sponsored program.

Q: Should the federal government and/or its third-party agents (e.g. Sunlife) be permitted to conduct on-site verification audits in dental practices?

A: Clarification is needed on Sunlife's authority to review patient records. Original patient records should remain in dental offices, and patient confidentiality must be ensured. More information will be gathered to determine next steps for the College

Standards of Practice – Priorities

Cameron Thompson, Manager of Strategy and Policy, reported that the RCDSO's Policy Team assessed the College's existing Standards of Practice, identifying those needing updates. The assessment included input from subject matter experts and utilized the Standards Prioritization Support Tool.

The team reviewed 23 standards and five emerging issues, recommending eight standards and one emerging issue as priorities for the College over the next two years:

- Informed Consent (Practice Advisory)
- Dental CT Scanners (Standard of Practice)
- Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Boundary Violations (Practice Advisory)
- Educational Requirements and Professional Responsibilities for Implant Dentistry (Guideline)
- The Role of Opioids in Pain Management (Guideline)
- Use of Sedation and General Anesthesia in Dental Practice (Standard of Practice)
- Maintaining a Professional Patient-Dentist Relationship (Practice Advisory)
- Infection Prevention and Control in the Dental Office (Standard of Practice)
- Artificial Intelligence (emerging issue)

The Quality Assurance Committee approved these recommendations on January 22. Mr. Thompson will keep the Executive Committee updated on progress.

Requesting Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Referring to Physician Specialists

Mr. Thompson reported on changes to the OHIP Schedule of Benefits affecting the College's MRI Standard of Practice.

He reminded the Executive Committee that in 2023 the Ontario Ministry of Health allowed some dentists, specifically oral and maxillofacial surgeons (OMFS), to directly order MRIs and to refer patients to physician specialists while enabling physicians to claim a consultant fee. The updated OHIP Schedule now specifies that while MRI orders apply to OMFS, referrals to physician specialists refer to "dental surgeons," meaning any dentist with an OHIP billing number.

Mr. Thompson noted this clarification from the Ministry of Health misaligns with both the original discussions and the RCDSO's Standard. Staff are now in discussions with the Ontario Dental Association to revise the Standard and provide clear guidance to the profession.

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