

Conflict of Interest for CDHO Representatives Providing Dental Hygiene Courses, Educational or Mentoring Activities

This policy applies to members of Council, CDHO committees, working groups and taskforces and to those registrants who act as Quality Assurance Assessors or Clinical Competency Evaluators (“CDHO representatives”).

There are two major concerns about College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario (CDHO) representatives providing educational or mentoring activities in dental hygiene. First, where the activity is part of the regulatory requirement (e.g., a direction from a CDHO Committee, to fulfill an undertaking given to the CDHO, preparation for a quality assurance assessment) a perception is created that the CDHO representative is using her or his position for personal benefit. Second, any statement made by the CDHO representative will generally be interpreted as representing the CDHO’s position or views, even if this is not the case.

CDHO representatives must not provide educational or mentoring activities in dental hygiene where the activity is part of the regulatory requirement, except as approved to do so by the CDHO. This does not apply to educators teaching dental hygiene students in their capacity as employees of their educational college/institution.

CDHO representatives must at all times be aware that registrants attending courses provided by such persons may perceive that those courses are endorsed by the College. Therefore, any CDHO representative providing educational or mentoring activities that are not part of a regulatory activity **must always** declare that they are not doing so on behalf of the CDHO.

.../continued on next page

In addition, educational or mentoring activities that are part of a CDHO regulatory activity are not to be given by CDHO representatives for **one year** following the end of their term, except as approved to do so by the CDHO.

CDHO representatives may accept invitations to speak to local dental hygiene societies or participate in professional continuing competency activities with colleagues. However, they must adhere to agreed-upon statements, positions and policies endorsed by the CDHO and remuneration other than a small thank you gift should not be accepted. Only CDHO Practice Advisors/staff may speak on issues related to Standards of Practice, quality assurance requirements and other regulatory matters.

CDHO representatives should use professional judgment and caution when considering invitations to speak at dental hygiene gatherings. For example, it would not be prudent for a Quality Assurance Assessor to conduct a portfolio course, or for a Clinical Competency Evaluator to conduct a clinical evaluation preparatory course.

This policy is effective April 2, 2012.



College of **Dental Hygienists** of Ontario
L'Ordre des **hygiénistes dentaires** de l'Ontario
Protecting your health and your smile