

M E M O R A N D U M
COLLEGE OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS OF ONTARIO
69 BLOOR STREET EAST, SUITE 300
TORONTO, ONTARIO, M4W 1A9

TO: CDHO Registrants and Stakeholders
FROM: Fran Richardson, Registrar
DATE: November 16, 2006
RE: Proposed Regulation on Contraindications for Self-initiation (Revised Notice)

Please find attached the **correct *Proposed Regulation on Contraindications for Self-initiation*** which was approved by the CDHO Council on October 13, 2006 for circulation to registrants and interested stakeholders. **The Proposed Standard of Practice for Self-Initiation was inadvertently sent with the November edition of *Milestones*. We apologize for the error.**

The *Dental Hygiene Act, 1991 (DHA)* which was proclaimed on December 31, 1993, contains a section that requires dental hygienists to obtain an ‘order’ from a member of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario (RCDSO) before they can perform their authorized act of *scaling teeth and root planing, including curetting surrounding tissue*. The ‘order’ requirement has restricted the public’s access to preventive oral health care. The CDHO has long been of the belief that the ‘order’ requirement is a holdover from the days prior to self-regulation and that it has severely hampered the public’s access to effective, timely and necessary preventive health care services which could be delivered by dental hygienists.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) has indicated that it is now prepared to amend the *DHA* based on an agreement among the RCDSO, CDHO, Ontario Dental Association (ODA) and the Ontario Dental Hygienists’ Association (ODHA) executed in late August. Part of that agreement requires the development of a regulation outlining the contraindications to self-initiation which would accompany the proclamation of the amendment. The MOHLTC stated that the CDHO regulation must be based on the Standard of Practice agreed to by the ODA and ODHA in their Memorandum of Understanding, dated May 2006.

The MOHLTC also stated that the regulation had to go through the normal and customary regulation making process. However, the Ministry has provided written assurance to the CDHO that the regulation will be expedited, in order that the amendment to the *DHA* and the regulation could be proclaimed as is possible after the statutory amendments obtain Royal Assent and certainly before the next provincial election scheduled for October 2007. Doing so fulfills the Premier’s promise, made during the last election campaign, to amend the *Dental Hygiene Act, 1991*.

Please provide comments, in writing (fax 416-961-6028, e-mail registrar@cdho.org, or post to the address above) by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 23, 2007.

Self-Initiation

1. A registrant will not self-initiate nor continue to perform scaling *teeth* and root planing including curetting surrounding tissue, when any of the following conditions are reported or known to be present in the client unless there is a relevant physician and/or dental clearance. If there is an oral health question, the clearance must come from a dentist. If there is a medical history question the clearance may come from a dentist or a physician. Any clearance must be current and on the dental hygienist's record:
 - i) any cardiac condition for which antibiotic prophylaxis is recommended in the guidelines set by the American Heart Association (AHA), unless the dental hygienist has consulted with either the client's physician, dentist, or registered nurse extended class [RN(EC)] and determined that it is appropriate to proceed if the client has taken the prescribed medication as per the AHA guidelines;
 - ii) any other condition for which antibiotic prophylaxis is recommended or required;
 - iii) any unstable medical or oral health condition, where the condition may affect the appropriateness or safety of scaling *teeth* and root planing including curetting surrounding tissue;
 - iv) active chemotherapy or radiation therapy;
 - v) significant immunosuppression caused by disease, medications or treatment modalities;
 - vi) any blood disorders;
 - vii) active tuberculosis;
 - viii) drug or alcohol dependency of a type or extent that it may affect the appropriateness or safety of scaling *teeth* and root planing including curetting surrounding tissue;
 - ix) high-risk of infective endocarditis;
 - x) a medical or oral health condition with which the registrant is unfamiliar or that could affect the appropriateness, efficacy or safety of the procedure; or
 - xi) a drug or a combination of drugs with which the registrant is unfamiliar or which could affect the appropriateness, efficacy or safety of the procedure.
2. Notwithstanding paragraph (1) a registrant will not self-initiate scaling *teeth* and root planing, including curetting surrounding tissue, if the registrant is in doubt as to the status or accuracy of the medical or oral health history.