Occupational Health and Safety in the Dental Office: Due Diligence

Have I done everything reasonably practicable to make my workplace safe?²

Due diligence means employers and workers have both taken all reasonably practicable steps to protect health and safety. Alberta Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) legislation applies to all workers in Alberta. The Government of Alberta has developed specific tools and resources to assist you, the dental healthcare worker, and your employer with due diligence. The legislation is designed to keep workers safe.

Continued on page 5
The College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Alberta (CRDHA) invites submissions of original research, discussion papers and statements of opinion relevant to the dental hygiene profession for its official newsletter, InTouch. Submissions are subject to editorial approval and may be formatted and/or edited without notice. Contributions to InTouch do not necessarily represent the views of the CRDHA, its staff or Council, nor can the CRDHA guarantee the authenticity or accuracy of reported research. As well, the CRDHA does not endorse, warrant, or assume responsibility for the accuracy, reliability, truthfulness or appropriateness of information regarding products, services, manufacturers or suppliers contained in advertisements within or associated with the newsletter. Under no circumstances, including, but not limited to, negligence shall the CRDHA be liable for any direct, indirect, special, punitive, incidental, or consequential damages arising from the use, or neglect, of information contained in articles and/or advertisements within this publication.

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Reminders & Announcements

October 31, 2015: CRDHA Annual Renewal Deadline
October 29-31, 2015: CDHA Conference, Victoria, BC
April 28-30, 2016: CRDHA Annual Continuing Competence Event, Calgary, AB
June 23-25, 2016: International Federation of Dental Hygiene, Basel, Switzerland

For more information about the CRDHA and the dental hygiene profession in Alberta visit www.crdha.ca
New CRDHA Database

In an effort to make the CRDHA’s registration services more efficient and user-friendly, the CRDHA has moved to a new database system. Each member has been assigned a new unique user name and password that allows access to online membership renewal and the members only section of the website.

A renewal reminder including your new user name and password was sent in September to the email address the CRDHA has on file for you. If you have not received this important email, please call the CRDHA office immediately to update your email contact information so you can renew online before the October 31, 2015 renewal deadline. At any time through the year you will be able to enter the CRDHA website to update your personal profile, check your continuing competence program transcript and print your tax receipt.

As with any new system, there will be a few wrinkles that will need to be ironed out over the next few months. We appreciate your patience with the CRDHA staff as we attempt to resolve any problems you experience with the system.

If you have questions or need advice about accessing online renewal or the CRDHA website please call the office toll free (AB only) at 1-877-465-1756 or 780-465-1756 or contact info@crdha.ca.

Occupational Health and Safety in dental hygiene practice

Occupational health and safety should be a priority for every dental hygienist. You can protect yourself and others through understanding and practicing the principles of safety in your workplace. Your career depends on it, your code of ethics and practice standards require it.

Both the CRDHA Code of Ethics and Practice Standards require that dental hygienists accept responsibility for knowing and acting consistently with guidelines, standards, laws and regulations relevant to dental hygiene practice. One of those laws is Alberta’s Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act. Under the OHS Act, the OHS Regulations and OHS Code set out rules that have been put in place to protect and promote the occupational health and safety of workers throughout Alberta.

Every industry and every workplace has specific hazards and issues to be considered. OHS has worked with stakeholders to develop resources that are designed for many workplace settings including a Handbook of Occupational Hazards and Controls for Dental Workers that is available on the OHS website. Under the OHS Act, Regulation and Code everyone in the workplace must take responsibility for health and safety. Read more in this issue of In Touch to find out what role you can play in protecting health and safety in your workplace.

Display your Practice Permit in an area visible to clients.

If you work in more than one practice and require a duplicate Practice Permit contact info@crdha.ca to request a duplicate Practice Permit. There is no charge for an additional copy.
Call for Members for Hearing Tribunals and Review Committees

In accordance with the *Health Professions Act* (the Act), College Councils are required to establish and maintain a list of members who will be available to be selected by the College’s Hearings Director to form a hearing tribunal or a complaint review committee. Any hearing tribunal or complaint review committee must include 25% public representation. Public members are provided from a list maintained by the Government.

Pursuant to the Act, the hearing tribunal is responsible for conducting a full and fair hearing regarding allegations of unprofessional conduct of a member. The job of the hearing tribunal is to determine, on the basis of the evidence introduced, whether the conduct of the dental hygienist constitutes unprofessional conduct.

A complaint review committee’s powers and duties include reviewing and ratifying alternative complaint resolution settlements and conducting reviews of dismissals of complaints. The complaint review committee’s decision making powers are set out in the Act.

Hearing tribunals and complaint review committees are established on an “as needed” basis. Orientation sessions are conducted by CRDHA legal counsel prior to a hearing or complaint review committee meeting.

The list of available members is comprised of dental hygienists with experience in all spectrums of dental hygiene practice: general practice, specialty practice, independent practice, community health and education. We would like to increase the number of members on the list to provide more flexibility in selecting dates for hearings or reviews.

We are seeking members with good knowledge of the profession and CRDHA’s professional standards and who exhibit the following qualities:

- Fair
- Good listener
- Non-biased
- Respect confidentiality
- Confident
- Mature judgment

Applicants must have 5 or more years of experience as a dental hygienist. If you are interested in submitting your name as a nominee for appointment to the list of members available to be selected for hearings tribunals or reviews, please send your resume and a brief letter describing why such an appointment appeals to you. Submissions should be directed to:

**CRDHA Hearings Director**
302, 8657 – 51 Ave. NW
Edmonton, AB T6E 6A8

by February 15, 2016

Interviews will be conducted as part of the selection process.

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Reporting Blood Borne Infections to the CRDHA

All health care workers with a history of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus (HBV) or hepatitis C virus (HCV) positivity have an ethical obligation to report to their professional regulatory authority for referral to the Provincial Expert Review Panel if they perform any exposure-prone procedures.

Exposure-prone procedures performed by dental hygienists include scaling, root planing and injection of local anaesthesia. Access to the Provincial Expert Review Panel is through referral from a health care worker’s regulatory authority.

Registered dental hygienists who have tested positively to HIV, HBV or HCV should contact the CRDHA Registrar, Brenda Walker, in person or by telephone at 780-465-1756 or toll free 1-877-465-1756 for further information and referral to the Expert Review Panel.
Immunizations

The CRDHA Practice Standard 1.1.8a requires that registered dental hygienists ensure personal and client safety by maintaining an up-to-date immunization status.

Immunization requirements are included as part of the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Standards and Risk Management for Dentistry which have been adopted by the CRDHA.

Immunizations substantially reduce both the number of Dental Health Care Provider’s (DHCP) susceptible to infectious diseases and the potential for disease transmission to their family patients and other DHCP. All DHCP should be adequately immunized against:

• Hepatitis B;
• Measles;
• Mumps;
• Rubella; (mandated under Public Health Act)
• Varicella;
• Influenza; and
• Diphtheria, tetanus

Immunizations for Hepatitis B and Rubella are mandatory. The IPC standard says “all Dental Health Care Providers should be adequately immunized against the other communicable diseases on the list”.

Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program

The purpose of Alberta’s Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program is to reduce the incidence of influenza in Alberta and the impact of this illness on Albertans.

While the overall goal is to immunize as many Albertans as possible, Alberta Health Services (AHS) is looking to target and increase immunization rates in specific high risk groups including infants 6 to 23 months of age, individuals 65 years of age and older, individuals with chronic health conditions and long term care residents. In addition, improving immunization rates in health care workers, including staff of long term care facilities, will remain a focus. Community providers play an important role in identifying and providing influenza immunization to individuals from the high risk groups, contributing significantly to increased immunization rates within these groups.

Access Alberta Health and Wellness site for Alberta specific information about influenza at www.albertahealthservices.ca/2824.asp

Provincial, national and international influenza activity information can be found at the following links:

Alberta
www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/hi-flu-influenza-vaccine-information-sheet.pdf

Canada - FLUWATCH
www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/index-eng.php

USA-CDC
www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly

World Health Organization
www.who.int/topics/influenza/en

Independent Dental Hygiene Practice

If you are a CRDHA member who is considering setting-up an independent dental hygiene practice please contact the CRDHA to access a series of emails with information related to independent practice.

Contact us early for guidance on addressing legislative requirements and business resources.

If you have an independent dental hygiene practice be sure to register it with the CRDHA to comply with the CRDHA Bylaw 11.3. Visit the CRDHA website for details and to access the online independent dental hygiene practice registration form.


Additional resources to support your practice are available on the website: www.crdha.ca/the-profession.aspx

For more information contact:
Darlene Fraser
Member Services Coordinator
Phone: (780) 465-1756
Toll Free 1-877-465-1756
Email: info@crdha.ca
Front and Centre: Occupational Health and Safety in the Dental Office: Due Diligence

Now is the time to learn about Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)

Annual renewal of your CRDHA membership is an ideal time to prepare or review your Continuing Competence Program learning plan for the upcoming membership year. Review the CRDHA Code of Ethics and CRDHA Practice Standards as part of the process. We draw your attention to sections that relate to occupational health and safety in the dental office.
What is due diligence?

Due diligence is the level of judgement, care, prudence, determination, and activity that a person would be reasonably expected to demonstrate under particular circumstances. Applied to occupational health and safety, due diligence means that employers shall take all reasonable precautions, under the particular circumstances, to prevent injuries or incidents in the workplace. Being duly diligent does not just happen on its own.

An employer must actively plan, act, document and measure their health and safety program and activities to effectively demonstrate due diligence and apply it as a legal defence. Employers must be knowledgeable of their responsibilities for workplace health and safety as detailed in the OHS Act, Regulation and Code. For many health topics, employers must develop and maintain written procedures, plans and Codes of Practice.

Workers need to be aware of their health and safety responsibilities, and programs such as orientation, training and in-services can help achieve this.

These requirements are detailed in Section 2 of the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Act, which is commonly referred to as the “General Duty Clause”.

Employers must ensure, as far as reasonably practicable that they protect the health and safety of:

- Their employees
- Employees of other employers that may be present at the work site

Workers must:

- Take reasonable care to protect the health and safety of themselves and other workers
- Cooperate with their employer to protect the health and safety of themselves and other workers.

Example:

A registered dental hygienist is seriously injured because of a violent attack by a patient who had not previously demonstrated any aggressive characteristics or tendencies. The employer successfully demonstrated due diligence by having established a comprehensive corporate occupational health and safety program and a workplace violence prevention program that identifies, assesses, and controls workplace hazards, by having provided employees with workplace violence prevention training and maintaining documentation related to these problems.

An Internal Responsibility System

The Internal Responsibility System (IRS) is a fundamental principle underlying OHS legislation in every jurisdiction in Canada. The foundation of IRS is that everyone in the workplace (employers, supervisors and workers) is responsible for his or her own safety as well as the safety of co-workers. The IRS requires partnership between the employer and employees to establish a safe and healthy workplace.

Keys to a Successful Internal Responsibility System

1. Everyone must have a sincere wish to prevent accidents and illnesses;
2. Everyone must accept that incidents and illnesses have causes that can be eliminated or greatly reduced;
3. Everyone must accept that risk can be continually reduced, so that the time between incidents and illnesses get longer and longer;
4. Everyone must accept that health and safety is an essential part of doing his or her work (health and
safety is not an extra, it is part of doing a job);  

5. Every person must have a clear understanding of what he/she is responsible for, what he/she can do to change matters; and when things must be done;  

6. Every person must be regularly asked to explain what they have done to ensure health and safety on the job and in the workplace;  

7. Everyone must have a clear understanding of their own skill, ability and limitations and should have the capacity to carry out their responsibilities;  

8. Everyone must attempt to avoid conflict when trying to avoid risk;  

9. As an individual, each person must go beyond just complying with health and safety rules and standards, and strive to improve work processes to reduce risk;  

10. When an individual cannot reduce risk by him/herself, then they must cooperate with others to go beyond just complying with health and safety rules and standards, and strive to improve work processes to reduce risk;  

11. Everyone must understand the IRS process, believe in it, and take steps to make it effective at all levels in the organization, and  

12. No one should be fearful of reprisals when using IRS processes.

### What can you do?  

**Be a leader**  
Champion and advocate for occupational health and safety in your practice. You have the competencies, critical thinking and evidence-based decision making capacities to be an agent of change in a practice.  
Understand your responsibilities regarding OHS. Use the self-assessment tool (checklist) on page 8 as a start. Then fill in your knowledge and practice gaps.  
Access and learn from appropriate resources such as the CRDHA Code of Ethics, CRDHA Practice Standards and relevant legislation such as the Occupational Health and Safety Code 2009 Part 35 Health Care and Industries with Biological Hazards and Handbook of Occupational Hazards and Controls for Dental Workers.  
See additional resources on page 15.  

**Be a collaborator**  
Work with your employer and other staff members to develop and support an OHS program in your practice. This could involve seeking OHS resources from outside the practice.  
Example:  
- Offer to start the process of developing a practice-specific OHS policy and procedures manual; invite other staff members to work on the project with you.  
- Encourage staff members to complete a hazard assessment for the areas of practice that affect each of them. Then work with them to compile into an overall practice hazard assessment. (see Hazard Assessment in the next section of this article.)  

**Be an example**  
Implement safe practices in accordance with legislation and policies and procedures specific to your practice.  
Examples (not an exhaustive list):  
- Complete a hazard assessment for the areas of practice that affect you;  
- Use a radiation monitoring system including use of a dosimeter;  
- Post the CRDHA Donning and Doffing Personal Protective Equipment posters in the area used for instrument reprocessing in your office. Follow the procedures;  
- Use appropriate eye protection when providing clinical care;  
- Use a safety syringe when administering local anaesthetic;  
- Use effective communication to defuse aggression with clients;  
- Use effective ergonomic principles;  
- Document safety incidents;  
- Ensure spills are wiped up immediately;  
- Know the information in the material safety data sheet (MSDS) for each chemical product you use;  
- Maintain equipment.  

**Be a source of information**  
Share OHS information with staff members in a regular basis.  
Examples:  
- Mentor new staff members and provide orientation to OHS specific to your office;  
- Provide resources to be considered at staff meetings and during conversations with colleagues;  
- If you belong to a study club arrange OHS educational opportunities.
Hazard Assessments

A hazard is any situation, condition or thing that may be dangerous to the safety or health of workers. A hazard has the potential to cause an injury, illness or loss. Some people think of a hazard as “an accident waiting to happen”. Potential hazards are those that are foreseeable and reasonably likely to occur.

The purpose of the hazard assessment is to identify and evaluate those conditions that could lead to workers getting hurt or becoming ill.

Injuries and ill health can ruin lives and affect an employer’s business if production is lost, machinery and equipment are damaged, insurance costs increase, or the employer is prosecuted.

Assessing hazards involves taking a look at what could harm workers at a workplace – the typical question to ask is “What could go wrong?” Doing a hazard assessment allows an employer to decide whether appropriate precautions have already been taken to prevent accidents and injuries, or whether more needs to be done. A hazard assessment takes into account the hazards specific to the work task being done. It also takes into account the potential for hazards present in the surroundings to affect the worker performing the task e.g. movement of vehicles, upset of stored materials, collapse of unsecured structures, collapse of earthen piles, etc.

Dental workers may be exposed to a variety of workplace hazards in the course of performing their functions. The type and degree of exposure is dependent upon the type of services, the type of patients or clients, and the specific tasks performed. A key component of a health and safety program is to identify and assess hazards and determine appropriate controls. A systematic approach to hazard assessment includes the following steps:

1. List all work-related tasks and activities.
2. Identify potential biological, chemical, physical and psychological hazards associated with each task.
3. Assess the risk of the hazard by considering the severity of consequences of exposure, the probability that the exposure will occur and the frequency the task is done.
4. Identify the controls that will eliminate or reduce the risk. The hierarchy of controls should be followed. This means that engineering controls are the most effective, followed by administrative controls (such as training and rules), followed by personal protective equipment (PPE).
5. Implement the controls for each hazard.
6. Communicate the hazard assessments and required controls to all workers who perform the tasks.
7. Evaluate the controls periodically to ensure they are effective.

Developing a Plan

Where the OHS Code requires a “plan” to be prepared, this section requires that the plan be prepared by a person designated by the employer. This person must be competent in the principles and practices of the work described in the plan.

OHS programs can provide a number of benefits. For example, OHS programs enable an employer to control its occupational health and safety risks, improve health and safety performance, communicate its health and safety commitments and policies to staff, and provide a framework for attaining its health and safety goals and objectives. Further, OHS programs assist with implementation by delineating roles, responsibilities, and accountability for tasks, including checking and corrective action as the program evolves. A properly implemented OHS program can be expected to reduce injuries and the associated costs of disability and lost production hours.
## Self Assessment

Are there areas regarding OHS that you need to enhance that could be added to your learning plan or action plan?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Awareness</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knows where to access OHS legislation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has attended orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is aware of procedure to report incidents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is aware of site emergency response plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is aware of legal rights related to OHS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has had appropriate immunizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has reviewed the Handbook of OHS Hazards and Controls for Dental Workers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has reviewed the “test your knowledge” section of the Handbook</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biological Hazards and Controls</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uses safety engineered medical devices properly</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Disposes of used sharps properly</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Knows how to use disinfectants properly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can describe and demonstrates ability to follow Routine Practices and Additional Precautions</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dons and doffs gloves properly</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Has had infection prevention and control training</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is aware of common biological hazards and controls</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Uses Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as required</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemical Hazards and Controls</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has had WHMIS training and reviewed MSDSs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has had training and demonstrates ability to work safely with all dental products used (mercury, methyl methacrylate, metals, silica, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Has been trained in spill response</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Knows and uses appropriate PPE</td>
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<tr>
<th>Physical Hazards and Controls</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has received training in ergonomics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Can adjust work stations and modify work to reduce musculoskeletal Injuries</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Has had appropriate training for working with compressed gases and cryogens</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wears appropriate footwear to reduce slips and falls</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Handles sharps and instruments properly</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Has received training related to controlling exposure to ionizing radiation (X-rays)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Has had training related to controlling exposure to non-ionizing radiation (lasers, UV, microwave, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wears appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Psychological Hazards and Controls</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
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<tr>
<td>Is aware of organizational policies and procedures regarding abuse and violence</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Is able to identify examples of abusive behaviour</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Understands working alone legislation and can identify principles as they apply</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Is aware of communication procedures when working alone</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Is aware of access to Employee Assistance and Critical Incident Stress management programs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Understands signs and symptoms of depression and substance abuse</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Understands the importance of a healthy lifestyle and a good work-life balance</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Understands and practices good cross-generational communication</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Knows the reporting procedure for environmental factors that may be impacting psychological well-being</td>
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## Test Yourself?

1. In what way can dental personnel be exposed to biological hazards?
2. What is meant by the “hierarchy of controls”?
3. Give three examples of engineering controls.
4. Give three examples of administrative controls.
5. Give three examples of personal protective equipment.
6. What are the major physical hazards that dental personnel may be exposed to?
7. Give five examples of chemical hazards in dentistry.
8. Name the five criteria for choosing the proper gloves to use.
9. Name the six criteria for selecting appropriate eye protection.
10. What administrative controls can be put in place to reduce the risk of exposure to hazardous chemicals?
Fear of reprisal?

An employee should not fear reprisal or problematic consequences for initiating conversations about OHS and for encouraging follow-up actions. Get buy-in with all individuals in your practice impacted by OHS.

Think of who benefits by having and following OHS policies in the practice. Talk with your employer to identify how the employer benefits. Talk with colleagues to identify how employees benefit. Talk with staff and employer about how ultimately the clients benefit. Make this a win/win interest-based conversation that will positively impact you and the practice.

OHS is not an option. It is mandated by government with severe penalties for non-compliance.

COMPLIANCE POLICY STATEMENT

“Albertans expect workplaces that are healthy, fair and safe. The Alberta government, through Human Services (the ministry), promotes and enforces Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) standards at work sites. OHS compliance is based on the concept of the internal responsibility system. This results in employers, workers, contractors, prime contractors and suppliers sharing in the responsibility and accountability for health and safety in the workplace. The ministry’s OHS Branch undertakes the compliance activities to ensure the effectiveness of workplace internal responsibility systems by enforcing the minimum standards of Alberta’s OHS legislation.”13

Filing a complaint with OHS Contact Centre

Anyone can report unsafe conditions at a workplace; you don’t have to be employed by a business to do so.14

Conclusion

When you access appropriate resources and resource people, communicate with others in your practice, and comply with legislation, you benefit from the effort you put into addressing OHS in your workplace. Have a longer healthier career as you work safely.

REFERENCES


The CRDHA is pleased to have worked with Alberta Health Services’ Apple magazine to develop the educational resource included with this newsletter and in the September 2015 Apple Magazine.

Copies of the resource are available for CRDHA members to use in their practice or in the community.

Copies of Apple magazine are available throughout Alberta at various medical centres, libraries, educational, banking and retail outlets. Pick up a copy of the September 2015 Apple magazine that is available free of charge to Albertans.

We thank the contributors who provided their expertise during the development of the resource.
Flu Season is Approaching.

Protect your clients, yourself and your family through immunization.

“Influenza vaccination provides benefits to health care workers (HCWs) and to the patients they care for. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) considers the provision of influenza vaccination to be an essential component of the standard of care for all HCWs for the protection of their patients. This includes any person, paid or unpaid, who provides services, works, volunteers or trains in a health care setting.”

“To protect vulnerable patients during influenza outbreaks, HCWs with confirmed or presumed influenza and unvaccinated HCWs who are not receiving antiviral prophylaxis should be excluded from direct patient contact. Health care organizations should have policies in place to deal with this issue.”

- Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent influenza.
- Each year there is a new vaccine to protect against the influenza virus strains that are expected in the coming influenza season. Even if the strains have not changed, getting influenza vaccine every year is necessary to maximize protection.
- Influenza vaccine is safe and well-tolerated.

How can influenza be prevented?

- Get the influenza vaccine. Influenza vaccine is a very effective way of protecting people from getting sick with influenza. You need to get immunized every year because the influenza viruses change. A new vaccine is made each year to protect against the viruses most likely to cause illness in that year. The best time to get immunized is October or November. You can get immunized any time during influenza season.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that has alcohol in it.
- Cover your mouth and nose with your arm or a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Stay home and rest when you are sick.

A generous donation from the College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Alberta (CRDHA) is giving Canada’s first dental hygiene graduate program at the University of Alberta’s School of Dentistry the head start it deserves.

The Master of Science (MSc) in Medical Sciences (Dental Hygiene) is a thesis-based graduate program that prepares students to become successful leaders in the profession of dental hygiene, in research, in education and in the community. Research topics for the thesis cover a broad range of interests including public health, health services delivery and basic biomedical sciences.

“We’ve always worked closely with the U of A,” says Brenda Walker, registrar at the CRDHA. “This program was very much needed. Previously, dental hygiene graduates (undergraduate) who wanted to further their education always had to complete master’s degrees in other fields. This program increases the credibility of the profession and it will build a new pool of research to support and enhance evidence-based practice.”

More specifically, Walker says graduate research will allow for development in the areas of clinical research, treatment procedures, prevention, and access to care.

“We were very excited when this proposal was brought forward to us,” added Walker. “We are pleased to be able to contribute funds and help the graduate program get started. It’s a way for us to say thank you for all the things the U of A does for our profession.”

Sharon Compton, director of the dental hygiene program, agrees wholeheartedly with Walker and says this new program will help advance the profession.

“Dental hygiene is a young profession and until this program was implemented, there was no dental hygiene specific graduate program in Canada,” says Compton. “This opportunity will help advance the profession in many ways with the ultimate outcome being improved oral health for Canadians.”

Further, with the gift from CRDHA, Compton says the School is now well positioned to provide support for the graduate student research.

“Obtaining external funding for oral health research is very competitive but with the support from the CRDHA, our graduate students will be able to receive funds to support their projects. This gift provides a solid foundation for developing the overall masters in dental hygiene and we are extremely appreciative of the CRDHA for supporting us,” says Compton.

MSc in Medical Sciences (Dental Hygiene) is offered for post-DHyg applicants or those proceeding from a BSc or equivalent degree.

The CRDHA provides funding to the U of A Dental Hygiene Program to fund a Master’s Degree Program. “The CRDHA is pleased to support the University of Alberta’s Dental Hygiene Program through this graduate program funding. We anticipate this contribution will help prepare the students and the dental hygiene profession for future opportunities in health care.” ~ Laurie Smith, RDH, CRDHA President
Back to Basics ...then Beyond

CRDHA Annual Continuing Competence Event | April 28-30, 2016 | Coast Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre | Calgary, AB

Registration includes:
- Presentations
- Workshops (limited attendance, pre-registration required)
- Community Connections Showcase
- Council Reception
- Breaks each day; breakfast and lunch Friday and Saturday
- Scientific Posters

Keynote Speakers and Presenters include:
- Dr. Maryam Amin
- Dr. Fiona Collins
- Dr. Seema Ganatra
- Dr. Iris Kuc
- Noel Paschke
- Dr. Carlos Quinonez
- Dr. Anthea Senior
- Dr. Ann Eshenaur Spolarich

Workshops include:
- Achieving Clinical Confidence with Cavitron Ultrasonics Systems
- Ergonomics and Loupes
- Elements of Prescribing for Prescribers
- Pharmacy Resources for Dental Hygienists
- Self Assessment to Enhance Practice

Online registration will start February 8, 2016

Choose 1, 2, or 3 day registration.

Register early for an entry for the Early Bird Draw! Deadline is April 4, 2016

More speakers and concurrent sessions are still to be confirmed.

This three-day Continuing Competence Event and Community Connections Showcase presented by the College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Alberta, provides a forum for registered dental hygienists, educators and industry experts.
Continuing Competence

REMEMBER that taking on-line courses simply to meet the Continuing Competence Program credit requirements without regard to your learning needs is not acceptable.

U of A Continuing Dental Education
The University of Alberta’s Continuing Dental Education (CDE) program provides specialized education and certification programs to postgraduate dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants and dental laboratory technicians.

Courses of interest to registered dental hygienists include:
• Business in Dentistry
• Dental Hygiene Refresher Course
• Local Anaesthetic
• Nitrous Oxide Oxygen Conscious Sedation
• Orthodontic Module
• And more

www.dentistry.ualberta.ca
ContinuingDentalEducation.aspx
Contact: (780) 492-1894

Mark the Date
The U of A Dental Hygiene Program presents
Dr. Tammy Hopper, PhD, R-SLP
Communication with individuals who have dementia: Facilitating care and well-being.

March 1, 2016, 7:00 pm
Edmonton Clinic Health Academy,
Room 2-190.
For details and to register go to: uab.ca/dhalum

Study clubs
Participate in a study club as a creative way to learn about topics that address your specific learning needs.

A study club is a group of individuals who have a common interest in continuing competence. Study Clubs meet regularly to facilitate learning by a variety of methods and on specific topics chosen by members.

The CRDHA has a directory of established Study Clubs – there might be one in your area. Study clubs are offered in Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, High River, Lloydminster, Medicine Hat, and Red Deer.

In order to compile a complete list of Study Clubs, the CRDHA would appreciate it if a representative from each study club would contact the CRDHA and provide the name of the group, and the name, email address and phone number of the contact person.

CRDHA does not organize or administer study clubs on behalf of its members. To help you set up a Study Club the CRDHA offers a resource “Dental Hygiene Study Club Considerations” which is available on the CRDHA website (member sign-in required) www.crdha.ca/the-profession/professional-resources/professional-development.aspx

For more information contact Darlene Fraser, Member Services Coordinator Phone: (780) 465-1756 or TF 1-877-465-1756 Email: info@crdha.ca

March 2016

VANCOUVER, BC
Pacific Dental Conference
March 17-19, 2016

April 2016

CALGARY, AB
CRDHA Annual Continuing Competence Event
April 28-30, 2016
Various speakers and workshops (to be determined). All members of the oral health team may register.
Sponsored by CRDHA
info@crdha.ca
Continuing Competence Online

Following are some online sites which were accessible at the time of printing this newsletter. Providers may assess a user fee and/or require registration with user name and password.

Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA)
www.cdha.ca
Some CDHA courses have limitations on the eligibility for CCP credit. Refer to the CDHA Course Credit Table.

American Dental Association
www.adaceonline.org

American Dental Hygienists Association
www.adha.org/CE_courses/index.html

Introduction to Chronic Disease Management
www.albertahealthservices.ca/7736.asp

Assigning Program Credits for Online Courses

The CRDHA Competence Committee determines the eligibility of specific courses for Continuing Competence Program credit. CRDHA Continuing Competence Program (CCP) Rule 9.1.3 Self Directed Study states: Program credits are granted according to recommendations made by the course provider, the publisher, or the Competence Committee, with consideration given to the amount of time necessary to cover the material and to take the examination. Assignment of program credits will not include the additional time the registrant takes to study or review the materials. The Competence Committee makes the final approval for the number of credits awarded for any course.

The Competence Committee determined that the number of credits indicated by the some providers for courses is not consistent with the content of the courses. The Competence Committee considered the allocation of program credit from the following online course providers and determined the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses from the providers named below are eligible for 50% of the credits indicated by the provider.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Crest Oral B/Proctor and Gamble; (Dental Resources; Dental Care)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hygienetown</td>
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<td>INR Biomed</td>
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<tr>
<td>I Need CE (Penwell, Hu-Friedy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PharmacyTimes: Courses relate mostly to the Pharmacy Profession.</td>
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<td>CDE World</td>
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<th>Courses from the providers named below are eligible for the number of the credits indicated by the provider.</th>
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<tr>
<td>American Dental Association</td>
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<td>American Dental Hygienists Association</td>
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<td>Dental Learning Network (Academy of Dental Learning)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dimensions of Dental Hygiene (Belmont)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Studies Institute</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Online continuing dental education is a convenient way to learn at your own pace, anywhere, anytime. The CRDHA Continuing Competence Program Rule 7.4 stipulates: “In the event that a learning activity continues into the evening hours, a maximum of 10 program credits per 24-hour period may be claimed.”
Immunization

To become more informed about immunization and to help with your decision-making some additional reference links include:

Public Health Agency of Canada: Canadian Immunization Guide (being revised and updates will be posted on this site)

Alberta Health Services
www.albertahealthservices.ca/2824.asp

Immunize Canada

Best Practices Guidelines for Occupational Health and Safety in the Healthcare Industry
A series of best practices guidelines that describe methods for employers and workers in the healthcare industry to improve health and safety.

http://work.alberta.ca/occupational-health-safety/6311.html


Volume 2: Best Practices for the Assessment and Control of Biological Hazards (BP010)

Volume 3: Best Practices for the Assessment and Control of Chemical Hazards (BP011)

Volume 4: Best Practices for the Assessment and Control of Physical Hazards (BP012)

Volume 5: Best Practices for the Assessment and Control of Psychological Hazards (BP013)
A new digital resource: Dental Radiography, A quick reference guide for intraoral images, by Dr. Anthea Senior

This manual is a quick, chair-side reference guide for the dental team of how to take the most common intra-oral radiographs. It will be particularly useful for members of the dental team new to taking radiographs and for offices that are new to using digital receptors. It contains general information on patient preparation, rectangular collimation and what a perfect full mouth series of radiographs should look like. Common intraoral techniques are presented in a user friendly format using text, pictures, lectures and movies. The sections on “Tips and Tricks” and “Radiographic Errors” are based on my experiences of teaching radiographic technique to dental and dental hygiene students over the past 8 years.

Podcast interview: www.oasisdiscussions.ca/2014/10/14/aseb/


Dr. Senior will present at the 2016 CRDHA Annual Continuing Competence Event.

Request for Interviewers for the 2015 Dental Hygiene Class

The School of Dentistry is beginning to make arrangements for conducting approximately 105 interviews for the 2016 dental hygiene diploma applicants. If you are interested in volunteering as an interviewer, please contact the School of Dentistry Admission Office at admissions.dentistry@ualberta.ca or (780) 492-1319 by December 1, 2015.

We require all individuals interested in participating as an interviewer to attend the Interview Training Workshop to learn more about the Multiple Mini Interview process and have the opportunity to be calibrated. In the past, Continuing Competence Program credit has been granted for participation in the workshop. Interviewers who have completed the Interview Training Workshop within the last two years are not required to repeat the workshop.

Without the valuable support of volunteer interviewers we would not be able to have an interview process for prospective students. You have considerable experience and insight into the suitability of candidates, so we urge you to volunteer a few hours to help assess potential students. The results of an interview can have significant influence on a candidate’s placement in a class of 42 students.

In preparation for selecting the 2016 year two class, the School of Dentistry will be holding an Interview Training Workshop on Saturday, February 6, 2016 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm for all interviewers.

The admission interview day has been scheduled for Saturday, March 5, 2016.

Your assistance is most appreciated by the Admissions Committee.

Take your pick

AHS’s Apple magazine reprint series includes issues on brain development, healthy eating and nutrition, healthy seniors and healthy children.

For free copies, contact apple.mag@albertahealthservices.ca or visit applemag.ca.
HOWDY HYGIENISTS.
THERE’S A STREAMLINED WAY TO
FIND YOUR DREAM JOB.
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streamdental.ca

Providing Calgarian dental practices with the right employees, with the right skills, at the right times.

DVD Quarterly of Dental Hygiene

Add to your Continuing Competence Program credits at home

- 10 years of quality education
- 200 video presentations
- 960,000 educational credit hours
- to 8,000 subscribers

Completion Certificates 12 hr/yr

CDHA Members Receive a 25% Pricing Discount
CDHA Member Cost $149.95 + 13% HST = $169.45
CDHA non-member cost $199.95 + 13% HST = $225.95
Visit www.dvdquarterly.com to subscribe, or call 1-866-999-2999
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

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