Considerations of Laser Use in Dental Hygiene Practice

American Academy of Periodontology Statement on the Efficacy of Lasers in the Non-Surgical Treatment of Inflammatory Periodontal Disease*

Clinical application of lasers for the treatment of periodontal disease has continued to expand since their introduction for this purpose in the early 1990s1-8 but remains controversial.9-18 The primary purpose of this statement is to provide an evidence-based perspective on three of the purported benefits of using lasers in the nonsurgical treatment of periodontal disease, i.e., sulcular and/or pocket debridement (a.k.a. laser curettage), reduction of subgingival bacterial loads (a.k.a. pocket sterilization), and scaling and root planing (SRP).

Laser-mediated sulcular and/or pocket debridement

If one considers the clinical parameters of reductions in probing depth or gains in clinical attachment level, the dental literature indicates that when used as an adjunct to SRP, mechanical, chemical, or laser curettage has little to no benefit beyond SRP alone.10-17 The available evidence consistently shows that therapies intended to arrest and control periodontitis depend primarily on effective debridement of the root surface and not removal of the lining of the pocket soft tissue wall, i.e., curettage.18-19 Currently, there is minimal evidence to support use of a laser for the purpose of subgingival debridement, either as a monotherapy or adjunctive to SRP.10-22

Reduction of subgingival bacterial levels

Current evidence shows lasers, as a group, to be unpredictable and inconsistent in their ability to reduce subgingival microbial loads beyond that achieved by SRP alone.10-17 Further, this conclusion also appears to apply to the use of photodynamic therapy (PDT), either as a monotherapy or adjunctive to SRP.23 At best, the evidence is lacking or conflicting. For example, of the 10 published clinical trials, only two showed PDT to be effective in reducing subgingival microbial loads, four reported no difference, and four did not measure reductions in microbes.17

Scaling and Root Planing

Erbium lasers show the greatest potential for effective root debridement (SRP). The Er:YAG laser has been shown, in vitro, to remove calculus12 and to negate endotoxin.12,15,24,25 There is the potential for root surface damage during the process of in vivo calculus removal since the Er:YAG is a hard tissue laser and the operator would not be able to visualize what is being lased. Clinical data on attachment level changes when compared to SRP alone are conflicting, with some studies showing a slight benefit while others show no benefit. Further study is needed to determine if laser-assisted SRP has a beneficial effect.

Continued on page 8

* This statement was developed under the direction of the Workgroup to Develop Statement on Laser Use by Dental Professionals and approved by the Board of Trustees of the American Academy of Periodontology in November 2010. doi: 10.1902/jop.2011.114001 J Periodontol • April 2011. See page 8 for references. Reprinted with the permission of the American Academy of Periodontology. www.perio.org
Updating your personal information with CRDHA
Did you know that you can update your personal information on-line? Login to the Members Only section of the CRDHA website www.crdha.ca and choose “View” or “Change” your personal information on your Member Profile.

Ensure the CRDHA office has your current contact information including your email address.

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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.
Message from the president

The CRDHA Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in conjunction with the ACC Event was very well attended. Thank you for showing your commitment to CRDHA and to the profession of dental hygiene through your attendance and participation at the AGM.

The AGM is when we say goodbye to retiring councillors. This year we bid adieu to Allison Boone and Sabrina Heglund. Thank you both for your commitment to the profession of dental hygiene and to CRDHA Council. Two public members on Council, Debbie Hubbard and Jean Fraser, will also be retiring this year. As of September 2010 Jean Fraser and Debbie Hubbard had served the maximum allowable terms as public members on the CRDHA Council and will be leaving us as soon as new public members are appointed. We greatly appreciate the knowledge, experience and perspectives that Jean and Debbie have brought to Council over the past 6+ years.

We welcome Kathleen Sauze as a new councillor. As well Shirley Smith will be returning for a second term as CRDHA councillor.

The AGM was particularly significant as concerns raised through member feedback at the 2010 AGM were addressed. Two presenters spoke about initiatives to improve and standardize Canadian dental hygiene education and assess the competencies of dental hygiene program graduates. Dr. Sharon Compton, Professor & Director Dental Hygiene Program; Associate Chair (Dental Hygiene) Department of Dentistry University of Alberta, spoke about the goal of incorporating the new national competencies into all Canadian dental hygiene educational programs. Sylvie Martel, Dental Hygiene Advisor to the National Dental Hygiene Certification Board (NDHCB), addressed revision of the national examination to incorporate testing of knowledge, skills and judgment related to the new competencies and described the comprehensive process used to create and test each question for the NDHCB Examination. The examinations are constantly reviewed and revised to reflect current dental hygiene education standards competencies.

The member feedback component of the AGM provided many suggestions that, once collated, will be made available to you. Information from this session as well as your event evaluations assists CRDHA in future planning.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome new CRDHA members, either recent graduates from the U of A or individuals locating to Alberta from other provinces or countries. Please take the time to acquaint yourselves with the professional responsibilities of membership and the opportunities and services available to you through CRDHA and become involved in CRDHA initiatives.

The College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Alberta (CRDHA) exists so that Albertans will receive safe, high quality dental hygiene care from a continually advancing dental hygiene profession.
CRDHA Councillors make an ongoing commitment to the public and CRDHA members through participation in the governance of the College. As of June 30, 2011 Allison Boone and Sabrina Heglund completed their terms as Councillors. We are grateful for their contribution.

New Councillor

Kathy Sauze
Kathy Sauze began her dental hygiene career in 1985 as a graduate from the University of Alberta. She has worked in Alberta and B.C. in settings of general dentistry, periodontal practice and education. Currently Kathy is a part-time dental hygiene clinical instructor at the University of Alberta Dental Hygiene Program and works part-time in private practice. She lives in Edmonton with her husband and three children and is very involved in her community as a youth soccer coach and sits on several school parent advisory committees.

Kathy tells us a bit about herself: “My years of professional experience as an RDH provide me with strong insight in the front-line issues facing the profession. In addition, I am a volunteer in a number of community groups, providing me experience working on committees and boards. I am always looking to expand my experiences/knowledge. I respect the ideas of others, recognizing there are several sides to every story.

When asked, if others were to describe how you operate in a group, what would they say? Kathy responded: “I would think they would describe me as professional and respectful of others’ opinions, but also assertive when required to move forward on a particular issue when an issue has been debated sufficiently.”

Returning Councillors

Aimee Bradley  Jackie Blatz  Gerry Cool  Joanna Czarnobaj  Jean Fraser

Maureen Graham  Debbie Hubbard  Brenda Murray  Arlaine Monaghan  Shirley Smith
Message from the registrar

It’s renewal time!
Renew your registration online and on time.

Notice of Expiry of Practice Permits

All Practice Permits will expire on October 31, 2011. In accordance with section 38 of the Health Professions Act and section 7.7 of the CRDHA Bylaws, Regulated members must submit a complete application for renewal of their practice permit, including evidence of current CPR certification and fees, by October 31. A renewal application package for the 2011-2012 membership year will be mailed to all registrants in late August 2011. If you have not received your renewal package by the beginning of September, please contact Kim Koble at the CRDHA office (780) 465-1756 or call toll free at 1-877-465-1756 to request a duplicate package.

The application for renewal is a legal document which must be accurately completed, in its entirety, and returned to the CRDHA office along with full payment of fees. In order to allow for processing of applications by the expiry date of October 31, all applications and fees should be received in the CRDHA office by Friday, October 7, 2011.

In accordance with section 39 of the Health Professions Act, if a Regulated member’s renewal application is not received by the Registrar by October 31, 2011, the member’s Practice Permit is suspended. Continuing to provide dental hygiene services after suspension of the Practice Permit is a contravention of the Act subject to fines and penalties. In addition, professional liability insurance will be considered null and void.

Notice of Expiry of Non-Practicing and Student Membership

All categories of Non-Regulated (non-practicing) membership will expire on October 31, 2011. In accordance with section 8.5 of the CRDHA Bylaws, Non-Regulated members must submit a complete application for renewal of their membership, including full payment of fees, by October 31, 2011. Failure to renew your membership will result in cancellation of your registration as a Non-Regulated member.

Your Responsibility as a Registered Dental Hygienist in Alberta

• Make sure the CRDHA has your correct name, postal and email addresses, home telephone number, business address and phone numbers.
• Renew your membership and Practice Permit by October 31, even if you fail to receive notice from the Registrar.

continued next page
Ways to renew registration
If you are changing categories of registration (e.g., transfer Non-Practicing to General) you must complete and return the printed renewal form. If you are renewing in the same category of registration that you held last year, you may choose to:

1. Complete and return the paper renewal form, or
2. Renew online.

CRDHA is encouraging you to renew online. Renewing online is secure, fast and convenient. Go to www.crdha.ca to access “Online Renewal.”

CRDHA intouCH JULY 2011

CPR Requirements  Don’t risk suspension of your practice permit.

Regulated members applying for renewal of a practice permit must provide evidence of holding current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification at the level required by Council. CPR Certification must be completed no longer than twelve months prior to the CRDHA Practice Permit renewal deadline of October 31, 2011.

The level of certification required by CRDHA is most often referred to as CPR for Health Care Providers, however course names can vary.

**It is important to ensure that the CPR course you take has a hands-on component.** On-line CPR courses without a hands-on component are not acceptable for renewal of a practice permit. CPR courses must include classroom instruction and practicum experience related to:

- one and two rescuer chest compressions for adults, children and infants;
- one and two rescuer adult, child and infant bag-valve mask technique and rescue breathing;
- relief of choking in adults, children and infants; and
- use of an automated external defibrillator.

A photocopy of your CPR wallet card must accompany your application for renewal of a practice permit. If evidence of CPR Certification is not received in the CRDHA office by closing on October 31, 2011 your application for renewal of a practice permit will be considered incomplete and will result in suspension of your practice permit in accordance with section 40(2)(c) of the Health Professions Act.

A new practice permit will not be issued without evidence of the appropriate CPR training.

In accordance with CRDHA Continuing Competence Program Rule 9.2.5 CPR certification qualifies for a maximum of three program credits.
Hearing Tribunal Written Decision

On April 21, 2011, the CRDHA Hearing Tribunal rendered a decision that may be of interest to our members. A brief summary of the decision is set out below.

On October 27, 2010, Ms. X submitted an Application for Renewal of Membership form requesting that her registration be cancelled. In accordance with that request, her registration was cancelled effective October 31, 2010. After receiving an enquiry from a member of the public, the CRDHA determined that Ms. X had continued to treat patients between November 1-3, 2010, after her registration and practice permit were cancelled.

Following a hearing, the Hearing Tribunal found Ms. X guilty of unprofessional conduct under the Health Professions Act.

The Hearing Tribunal found that following cancellation of her registration and practice permit on October 31, 2010, Ms. X represented herself as a dental hygienist, used the title “dental hygienist,” and performed dental hygiene procedures in Alberta without registration or a practice permit. The Hearing Tribunal stressed that representing oneself as a regulated member when one is not a regulated member jeopardizes public confidence in the profession. Using the protected title “dental hygienist” when one is not registered with the CRDHA unnecessarily damages the good standing of dental hygienists in Alberta from the perspective of other dental hygienists, the public, dentists, and the Government of Alberta, who entrusts the CRDHA with the safe and proper regulation of the profession. Furthermore, practicing dental hygiene without being registered, without holding a practice permit and without holding liability insurance put both Ms. X’s patients and employer at risk.

The Hearing Tribunal concluded that Ms. X’s actions were a serious and intentional breach of her responsibilities and obligations under the Health Professions Act.

The Hearing Tribunal reprimanded Ms. X, ordered her to pay the full amount of the registration and practice permit fees for the 2010-2011 membership year in the amount of $629 and ordered her to pay a fine of $500. In addition, Ms. X was ordered to pay a portion of the costs for the hearing in the amount of $2,500.

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 1-877-465-1756 for further information and referral to the Expert Review Panel.
Evidence based research about Lasers

Before incorporating lasers into your practice you must understand and apply current research about lasers. Note that both the Canadian Academy of Periodontology and the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) do not support the use of lasers in periodontal therapy at this time. Reference articles about lasers can be accessed from the CAP at www.cap-acp.ca and AAP. This includes the AAP Statement on the Efficacy of Lasers in the Non-Surgical Treatment of Inflammatory Periodontal Disease which is reprinted with permission on the front page of this newsletter and Lasers in Periodontics: A Review of the Literature www.perio.org/resources-products/pdf/lr-lasers.pdf

In addition, the Canadian Dental Association (CDA) has an article on the use of lasers in periodontal therapy. Access the full article at: www.cda-adc.ca/jcda/vol-76/issue-2/10702.pdf In the article Dr. Debra Matthews states:
“Although there appear to be many claims surrounding the use of laser therapy in addition to or in place of traditional therapy, there is no evidence that any laser system adds clinical value over and above SRP and conventional surgical treatment. No long-term clinical studies have shown that laser therapy alone can be used effectively to treat adult chronic periodontitis. Such therapy does, however, add to patient cost for periodontal therapy.”

Contact any of these organizations directly or follow up on any of the research listed in the references.

Education

Dental hygienists in Alberta may utilize lasers during the provision of dental hygiene services (periodontal therapy and bleaching) provided they have the necessary competencies regarding use of lasers in the practice of dental hygiene and feel confident that they have the required skills to perform this procedure competently and safely on the public. The formal education must include both a theoretical and hands-on component. These competencies can be obtained through a dental hygiene undergraduate program or continuing education.

- The theoretical component should be a minimum of 7 hours in length and cover all aspects of laser therapy.
- The hands-on clinical component should be at least one full day (7-8 hours). If you, the provider, do not feel adequately prepared to safely provide the laser therapy after the first day of a clinical course, you will need to obtain further clinical education until you feel competent to safely and effectively provide this service. The time needed to become competent will vary from dental hygienist to dental hygienist, but a full day of clinical experiences is the minimum.

Practicing use of lasers on pig jaws is considered a good preclinical learning tool but it must not be the only hands-on opportunity in the formal education course. The College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Alberta (CRDHA) will only consider formal courses that also provide further experiences with live, human clients. We expect the majority of the clinical experiences in the formal education course to be on live clients, not on pig jaws. This component is essential in order to adequately prepare dental hygienists to be competent in the use of lasers for dental hygiene purposes.

There are many formal education opportunities available. If your office has already determined which laser is to be purchased, as a first step to acquiring the necessary education, you could approach the company that will be supplying that laser and ask them about course options.
Informed choice
Dental hygienists are encouraged at all times to make evidence-based decisions regarding implementation of new techniques, technology or research when determining if this is in the client’s best interest. As part of your evidence-based decision making, we encourage you to determine whether or not the desired client outcomes or results are achievable with the laser your office is using or proposing to use. Again, you also need to determine the client risk: benefit ratio. As with all procedures, the client must be given enough information to make an informed choice regarding the decision whether to proceed with a proposed treatment.

Use of Lasers for “Other Treatments/Therapies”
Dental hygienists must restrict themselves to using lasers for periodontal therapy and bleaching. Below are a few therapies that we receive questions about which dental hygienists are not authorized to perform.

- Treatment of cold sores, aphthous ulcers, dental sores, and coated or geographic tongue: We have contacted one of the University of Alberta’s oral pathologists recently to ask about any new evidence or research surrounding these areas. He indicated that there is not any new, high quality research or evidence, e.g., randomized controlled trials, that supports these therapies.
- TMJ Treatment: Some diode lasers have additional attachments for treating TMJ disorders. Dental hygienists are not authorized to provide laser therapy for treatment of TMJ disorders. While dental hygienists are able to identify potential TMJ concerns, they must refer the client to an appropriate health care provider (e.g., a dentist who specializes in treating TMJ disorders) for treatment. TMJ problems are multi-factorial and difficult to treat. At times, if treated inappropriately, a client may end up with even more severe problems.

Pain management during Laser use: TAC 20% Alternate
TAC 20% Alternate is an anaesthesia option that should not be used in Canada. Consider other pain management alternatives when necessary – e.g., local anaesthesia injections, Oraqix®, other topical anaesthetic options, etc. Go to the CRDHA InTouch Newsletter, January 2009 page 8 and 9 for the full article.

Safe use of Lasers
Laser plumes: When any type of thermal or ablative instrument, such as laser energy, is applied to human tissue an unwanted by-product is produced which is commonly known as surgical smoke. It is well documented that surgical laser plume must be evacuated and filtered to protect healthcare workers and their clients from the biological, chemical, and physical contaminants that reside within this laser plume. Some research shows a risk to the operator of contracting viral outbreaks beyond the borders of the face mask (laser plumes). Viral infections, like cold sores typically heal within 7-10 days. There are already good therapeutic
options available for viral infections which offer less risk to the client and operator than laser use.

For more information about possible concerns in this regard, please refer to the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health & Safety (CCOHS) Resources on Laser Plumes (www.ccohs.ca). CCOHS provides information for safe, work practices for Lasers in health care facilities including dental offices. Also refer to USA Center for Disease Control’s (CDC) 2003 Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings (www.cdc.gov). The September 2010 Alberta Dental Association & College’s Infection Prevention and Control Standards and Risk Management for Dentistry (Special Considerations Section – Laser/Electrosurgery Plumes…, pg 94) also indicates that work-practice and engineering controls should be in place to help limit dental health care providers’ contact with laser plumes.

Practice Standards and Legislation

For additional information on the process and expectations regarding the actions of Alberta dental hygienists refer to the Legislation and Practice Standards section of the CRDHA website, www.crdha.ca. Both the CRDHA Practice Standards and Code of Ethics documents should be considered to guide your practice of dental hygiene. These documents have sections regarding informed choice and evidence based decision making. Also go to the Legislative Changes section of our website to confirm information about laser use for dental hygienists. Refer to the Frequently Asked Questions about the HPA and the CRDHA Restricted Activities Table.

Stay Informed

CRDHA strives to ensure that all dental hygienists are consistently updated regarding new technology, appropriate education, etc. One way that we try to ensure timely dissemination of information is through our CRDHA member communications e.g., newsletters and CRDHA Memos. The information is also posted on the CRDHA website at www.crdha.ca. In addition to the January 2009 article and the two documents mentioned previously, the January 2011 newsletter included some FAQ’s about incorporation of laser use into the practice of dental hygiene.

Regarding purchase of laser equipment

Dental hygienists can own dental radiation equipment, including lasers. All dental x-ray equipment, including any Class 3b or Class 4 lasers used for dental hygiene procedures must be installed, registered and monitored in accordance with the Alberta Radiation Protection Act and Regulation. If a dental hygienist is acquiring or purchasing laser equipment, the dental hygienist must contact the CRDHA office for directions regarding registration and inspection of the equipment prior to operating the equipment in an independent dental hygiene practice.

Periwave

It has come to our attention that some of you may not have informed, at the time of purchase, that the Periwave Laser Base station (PW1100) is a Class 3B laser. Class 3B and 4 lasers must be installed, inspected, registered and monitored in accordance with the Alberta Radiation Protection Act and Regulation. If you have purchased a Periwave Laser Base station (PW1100) and it has not been inspected or registered, contact CRDHA for assistance in completing the registration process. Please be advised that this equipment must be inspected and registered prior to operating the equipment.

If you have purchased the Periwave Handheld Laser, it is a Class 1 laser and does not require inspection and registration.
In July 2008 CRDHA first launched the Elements of Prescribing: A Pharmacy Refresher Course for Dental Hygienists (the Course). CRDHA is pleased to provide you with another update on Alberta's dental hygienist prescribers. As of May 7, 2011 we have over 60 authorized dental hygienist prescribers.

Who are these Prescribers?
The prescribers who have successfully completed the Course come from a varied background. They are now embarking on the next leg of their professional journey as prescribers working in collaborative interdisciplinary environments.

Quick facts about Alberta’s dental hygienist prescribers:
- 100% of those on CRDHA’s General Member Register are currently working as a registered dental hygienist.
- ~78% of the prescribers are employed in an urban setting.
- Prescribers reside throughout the province. They are located as far:
  - North as Fort McMurray
  - East as Cold Lake
  - West as Grande Prairie
  - South as Lethbridge
- 60% practice solely in a private dental office, which means that almost 40% work in non-traditional practice settings e.g., stand alone dental hygiene practices, mobile dental hygiene care, hospitals, community health, and educational institutions.
- The average age of the prescribers is 39 years.
- 97% are females and 3% are males.
- The average number of years of experience is 13.47 years.

How do these Prescribers keep up-to-date?
There are a range of learning activities that dental hygienist prescribers pursue in order to remain current with their prescribing knowledge and skills. One of these activities is an annual event, organized by CRDHA for dental hygienist prescribers and current participants in the Course.

As one of the pre-conference events before the CRDHA Annual Continuing Competence (ACC) Event, dental hygienist prescribers, and those currently registered in the Course, participate in a full morning of learning. The Prescribers Workshop addresses new drug information and provides further opportunities for prescribers to sharpen their existing skills. The third annual workshop event was held April 28, 2011. Speakers for this workshop included Dr. Ann Eshenaur Spolarich, Dr. Charl Els (psychiatrist and addictions specialist) and Ms. Sylvie Druteika (pharmacist). Topics discussed included an update on tobacco cessation interventions and how best to work collaboratively with pharmacists in the community. Participants also completed two case studies to review decision-making, diagnostic and prescription writing skills.

When is the next course offering?
Participants in the fourth intake of the Course recently started their course in May 2011. The fifth intake will once again be open to all CRDHA members on the General Register. We anticipate that this course will be offered in March/April 2012. Watch for a separate mailing arriving at your door in February 2012! Congratulations to all dental hygienist prescribers on achieving this great milestone.

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In an effort to expand the experiences of students, Sharon Compton and Sandy Cobban, professors in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry at the University of Alberta, have developed a new practicum. The new program sends third-year dental hygiene students to two long-term care facilities in Edmonton (Jasper Place Continuing Care Centre and St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital) every Tuesday to do oral assessments on the residents.

“If the students aren’t exposed to this kind of work, I would propose they’d be much less likely to take it upon themselves to get involved in this kind of care,” said Compton. “We give our students a tonne of experience in the regular practice model; however, there are other areas where they could enhance their dental hygiene practice. One of those areas is in long-term care facilities.”

Assessments on residents in long-term care facilities are an important practice. Within this population group many of the residents have early dementia and, thus, can often have a hard time communicating the pain in their mouth, which can cause problems, including not eating properly.

“In being able to perform a routine assessment we’re able to identify problems either before they get to

Registered dental hygienists addressing oral health in long term care facilities

For many years, registered dental hygienists practicing in the community health setting have been providing education to staff, assessment of residents, and dental hygiene clinical care to residents of long term care facilities. More recently, with the legislative changes for the dental hygienists profession in 2006, registered dental hygienists in Alberta have been able to establish independent mobile clinics which have allowed the dental hygienists to provide care for residents in the facilities as well as to home-bound clients. The increase in experiences for dental hygiene students, noted in the accompanying article, will help to further prepare the students to provide care for residents of care facilities following graduation.

Mobile dental hygiene clinics operated by registered dental hygienists are based in many communities throughout Alberta.

For a listing of dental hygienists offering mobile services go to www.crdha.ca > “For the public”.

by Quinn Phillips, U of A Communications Staff, April 5, 2011
the point that the person is in pain, or identify the people that are in pain, who haven’t been assessed yet,” said Compton.

It’s also important that the residents of long-term care facilities be assessed, says Compton, because poor oral health can lead to a higher risk of pneumonia or heart disease. For now students cannot do treatment at the facilities because of logistical issues, but after identifying problems in these residents, students can then learn something very important. “What we are hoping to do is to help to then negotiate, facilitate and advocate for the person to get the care done,” said Compton.

Forty seven students are in the program, eight students are at the facilities every Tuesday through the semester. Kim Schowler is one of those students who has enjoyed the opportunity. “It’s been a really good experience because this is an opportunity you wouldn’t normally get,” said Schowler. “It’s nice to come in to long-term care facilities and even talk to patients who maybe have dementia and can no longer do the oral health care themselves. Or maybe they need some tips and tricks on how to do it. Even just educating the caregivers here and letting them know how they can help the residents is great.”

The hope is that this practicum will continue past this first year and will expand to a number of continuing care facilities in Edmonton. Compton has already had a lot of interest. “I’ve had five facilities already indicate that they would like dental hygiene students to come and provide oral health assessments and education with their residents,” said Compton, who also hopes they can expand to doing treatment in the coming years.

Facing Abuse of Older Adults

The Canadian Dental Hygienists Association is pleased to introduce “Facing Abuse of Older Adults” as an addition to its collection of online professional development courses. This professional development initiative was established to raise awareness of older adult abuse and neglect issues. It was made possible with the support and financial contribution of Human Resources and Skills Development.

Dental hygienists are uniquely positioned to make a difference.

Visit www.cdha.ca/ElderAbuse today!
You’ve been asking

As a registered dental hygienist, charting in an electronic chart system, my user code and password are my “signature” as it would be in a paper chart. So, I would assume that only I should have my password for legal purposes. So, no one else can have access to my documentation and make any changes in the chart under my name and password?

You are correct. Use of your code and unique password is equivalent to signing your name in a paper chart. You are also correct in saying that only you should know your password. You should never give your password to anyone else. If someone else needs to add or amend something in the client chart they can do so using their password and indicate why any changes to an earlier entry are being made.

The internal audit function in electronic charting systems allows an auditor to identify the date, time and who made each entry that appears in the client record. If people give their passwords to other users in the system, it undermines the whole security and reliability of the system. Further, if there was ever an investigation into the conduct of a member and the electronic records were reviewed as part of the investigation, any entries identified with your password would be attributed to your conduct. Therefore, if someone used your password to engage in any fraudulent activities such as changing service codes, fees charged or numbers of units billed, it would be very difficult if not impossible to prove that you had not made these changes yourself.

The bottom line is that no one should have your password but you. You wouldn’t give anyone else the password for your online banking account – this is no different. There are no explicit laws about this, it’s just best practice. If you don’t have time to complete all of the charting entries at the end of an appointment, make some quick hand written notes that will jog your memory so you can complete the charting at the end of the day. Don’t give someone else your password so they can complete the charting for you, even if the person is offering with the intent of just being helpful.

If you have any further questions, please don’t hesitate to contact CRDHA.

CRDHA Annual Continuing Competence Event
May 3-5, 2012
Calgary, Alberta
www.accevent.crdha.ca
Celebration of 20 years of Self Regulation

October 2010 was the 20th Anniversary of Self Regulation. CRDHA celebrated this anniversary at the Council Reception held in conjunction with the CRDHA Annual Continuing Competence Event April 29, 2011. President, Gerry Cool, acknowledged the contributions of CRDHA members, volunteers and staff in advancing the dental hygienists profession. Guests toasted the occasion with a special adult beverage, the “Blue Tooth”.

Brenda Walker has been Registrar of the CRDHA since the dental hygienists profession became self regulating in 1990. In recognition of this accomplishment and in appreciation of her dedicated service, Jacki Blatz presented Brenda with a potted plant, a garden bench and an engraved plaque at the CRDHA Annual General Meeting April 30, 2011.

Service Recognition Certificate to Dawn Mueller

At the CRDHA Annual General meeting President Gerry Cool presented a Service Recognition Certificate to Dawn Mueller for her commitment to furthering the careers of her colleagues by facilitating their continuing education activities for the past 17 years. The CRDHA members who nominated Dawn Mueller for a Service Recognition Certificate tell us that 17 years ago Dawn was one of the founding members of the “After Five” Dental Hygiene Study Club, and that Dawn has worked tirelessly since that time as unofficial President, Secretary, Treasurer and Meeting Planner to ensure that the study club has continued to flourish and enrich the knowledge of its members. Dawn was unable to be present to accept the award. Gerry accepted on her behalf. Congratulations, Dawn.

Student Award of Merit

The CRDHA Student Award of Merit was presented by Shirley Smith, CRDHA Vice President, to Andria Wester at the CRDHA sponsored Brunch for Graduating U of A Students, April 10, 2011. This award is presented in recognition of Andria’s professionalism, leadership and team spirit.
Noteworthy

Congratulations to the University of Alberta Dental Hygiene Program Graduates 2011

CRDHA Council and membership extend sincere congratulations to the University of Alberta Dental Hygiene Program Graduates of 2011. We acknowledge the effort and accomplishment of each graduate in attaining this goal. The following people graduated from the U of A Dental Hygiene Program June, 2011:

Angela Alvarez
Mehran Amin
Jamie Bates
Melynie Bishop
Daniela Blaga
Paige Bodwell
Carmen Boisvert
Cristine Bresson
Sukhmany Buttar
Diana Chan
Tammy Chong
Adrienne Coffin
Heidi Cookman
Laurel Curkan
Katrina Cyre
Noelle Dalmer
Shahme Farhat
Kirsten Fuchak
Jana-Marie Gaddi
Mikyla Hall
Courtney Hihn
Kathy Ho
Ashley Holloway

Nadia Kobagi
Gyopar Macovei-Benczur
Megan Mamos
Kimberly McCann
Azin Mehrabkhani
Karlyn Murray
Rachel Nickel
Kristen Penn
Olga Pletnyova
Christi-Lea Robertson
Roanne Rohr
Renee Rykes
Courtney Schaufele
Kayla Short
Kimberly Showler
Caitlin Slawuta
Sarah Suen
Marguerite Tiangco
Marie W
Alysha Weir
Andria Wester
Caitlyn Yanishewski
Elisa Yu

We wish each graduate continued success in your professional endeavours and we encourage each of you to become active in CRDHA initiatives and opportunities. Also, we encourage CRDHA members to find opportunities to personally welcome new graduates in the workplace.

Find ways to include these individuals in professional development opportunities; invite a new member to attend continuing competence events and meetings or to join a study club. Get to know each other and develop positive professional relationships based on mutual respect and learning from each other.

CRDHA Awards

Awards

A profession recognizes the accomplishments of its members and encourages students in the profession through the administration of an Awards Program. The following Awards were presented at the University of Alberta Alumni Association Convocation Luncheon, June 10, 2011. Congratulations to each recipient.

Dental Hygiene Awards for BSc (Dental Hygiene Specialization) Graduates

CRDHA Gold Medal: Melanie Anne Kochanski
CRDHA Award in Honour of Margaret Berry MacLean (2010): Vivian Fang
CRDHA Jan Pimlott Award: Natalie Catherine Choma

Dental Hygiene Awards for Students Entering BSc (Dental Hygiene Specialization)

CRDHA Scholarship: Melynie Bishop
CRDHA 40th Anniversary: Marguerite Camille Tiangco

Dental Hygiene Awards for Diploma Graduates

CRDHA Gold Scholarship: Kimberley Showler
CRDHA Silver Scholarship: Courtney Rene Hihn
CRDHA Dental Hygiene III: Ashley Brianne Holloway

From Left to Right: Vivian Fang, Melanie Kochanski, Ashley Holloway, Kimberley Showler, Courtney Hihn, Melynie Bishop, Marguerite Camille Tiangco. Missing: Natalie Choma
2011 ACC Event

Thanks to all who supported the CRDHA Annual Continuing Competence (ACC) Event, 2011.

Feedback

31.3% of attendees of the ACC Event responded to the online Post Event Evaluation Survey. Feedback from participants indicated a high degree of satisfaction with the 2011 ACC Event. When asked to rate various aspects of the event responders indicated:

- Overall quality of the event: 85.2% indicated “Very good” or “Exceptional”
- Overall organization of the event: 84.1% indicated “Very good” or “Exceptional”
- Likelihood of attending the event in the future: 99.9% indicated “Likely” to “Absolutely”
- Likelihood of recommending future CRDHA events to friends and colleagues: 96.5% indicated “Likely” to “Absolutely”

CRDHA Event Winners

Registration Prize Winner: Reimbursement of Event Registration Fee: Janel Misquitta
Evaluation Winner of the Text Book Duo: Lillian Wakulchyk

Thank You Volunteers

Thank you to the volunteers who assisted with various aspects of the event including Breakfast Mini Spot hosts and CRDHA members who introduced our speakers.

Sponsors and Trends and Technology Tradeshow Exhibitors

Our sponsors and exhibitors play a key role in the success of the ACC Event and we are privileged that they chose to share the experience with us. We appreciate their investment in our event and making the CRDHA community a priority in their organizations. Thank you to our sponsors and exhibitors.

Exhibitors

3M ESPE
Alberta Milk
Alberta Health Services: TRaC
About Face
Boyle McCauley Health Centre
Canadian Dental Hygienists Association
Crest Oral
Dentsply Canada
First Edition First Aid/Philips AED Distributor
GlaxoSmithKline
Health Canada/ Canada Vigilance Program: MedEffects
Hu Friedy
Johnson & Johnson
Maxill
Maxim Software Systems
OralDent Pharma
Oral Science
Paradise Dental Technologies
Premier Dental Products
Progressive Edge Dental
Sunstar Canada
Work Safe Alberta: Alberta Employment and Immigration

“I really enjoyed the sessions I attended. I learned many things that I can bring into my practice.”
HELP YOUR PATIENTS TO QUIT TOBACCO USE!

We are offering FREE, in-office educational sessions to help you develop tobacco treatment services (TTS) in your practice.* This will provide your dental team with brief intervention skills for helping people quit or reduce their use of tobacco. One session will be delivered by a trained RDH at no cost to you! In-office education provided with refreshments. Approved for CRDHA 1 CCP Credit (Program Credit Code CH01a).

For more information, and/or to sign up, please contact us!

Sharon Compton, RDH, PhD
Director & Project Lead
Dental Hygiene Program
Call: (780) 492-6331
Fax: (780) 492-8552
Email: scompton@ualberta.ca

Shelley Schindell
Project Assistant
Dental Hygiene Program
Call: (780) 492-6884
Fax: (780) 492-8552
Email: shelley.schindell@ualberta.ca

*This is a research study and will include a follow-up assessment

Dental Hygiene Program
Department of Dentistry
Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Dentistry/Pharmacy Centre ∙ University of Alberta ∙ Edmonton ∙ Canada ∙ T6G 2N8
Phone (780) 492-4479 ∙ Fax (780) 492-8552

In-Person Opportunities

CRDHA Annual Continuing Competence Event
Connect the Thoughts
May 3 - 5, 2012
Calgary, AB
www.accevent.crdha.ca

U of A Continuing Dental Education
U of A Continuing Dental Education offers a variety of courses. For the most up to date information visit www.dent.ualberta.ca/continuingeducation.cfm

Northwest Dental Exposition
September 30, 2011
Edmonton
Contact: (780) 642-8270
E-mail: eddsconnect@hotmail.com

Calgary and District Dental Society
September 9, 2011: Dr Larry Gaum: A Practical Approach to Oral Surgery for the General Dentist
October 14, 2011: Dr Terry Donovan: Restoration of the Worn Dentition
November 4, 2011: Dr Kevin Donly: An Update in Early Diagnosis and Minimally Invasive Restorative Care for Children
December 9, 2011: LeeAnn Shipwick: ACE Team – You Can’t Run Your Practice Alone!
February 10, 2012: Dr Winston Chee: Decisions for Extensively Damaged Dentitions
March 16, 2012: March Mini-Lectures:- Speakers To be announced
Contact: (403) 239-1465
Email: cddsadmin@gmail.com
Grey Matters
September 22-23, 2011
Calgary, Alberta

Kerby Centre is pleased to be hosting the 2011 Seniors Services Conference in partnership with Alberta Seniors and Community Supports. This two day conference is an opportunity for individuals who work with seniors to network and learn more about the programs, services and issues important to seniors.

To register, please go to: www.eplyevents.com/GreyMatters2011

On-Line Learning Opportunities

College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Alberta (CRDHA)

Jurisprudence Examination
Take the CRDHA Jurisprudence on-line, open book examination as an opportunity for existing CRDHA members to increase their knowledge of the legislation governing dental hygiene practice in Alberta.

Approved for 2 CRDHA CCP credits: Program Credit Code CHO1a
Contact CRDHA office: (780) 465-1756 or Toll Free 1-877-465-1756

Canadian Dental Hygienists Association

www.cdha.ca

Membership in the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) entitles you to access the Members Only area. From there you can access CDHA sponsored online continuing education opportunities including courses and webinars. Courses and webinars that meet CRDHA CCP Rules criteria are eligible for CRDHA CCP Credit.

National Dental Hygiene Certification Board Practice Examination (NDHCB)

Take the NDHCB Practice Examination to review of entry to practice competencies. Candidates will get a score report at the end of the test and will be able to compare their answers to the correct answers.

Approved for 2 CRDHA CCP credits: Program Credit Code CHO1a

American Dental Hygienists Association (ADHA)

www.adha.org/CE_courses/index.html
ADHA offers 22 online on a wide variety of topics, available for a fee or free of charge.

Eligible for CRDHA CCP credit: determined on a course by course basis.

Dimensions of Dental Hygiene

https://ce.dimensionsofdentalhygiene.com/courses.asp
Access a variety of on-line courses. Here you’ll find 2- and 4-credit continuing education courses written by world class educators and researchers with you, the practicing dental hygienist in mind. From oral cancer detection to the evolving technology of amorphous calcium phosphate to pain control during periodontal scaling and root planing, Dimensions CE covers timely and relevant topics in a clear and concise manner.

Eligible for CRDHA CCP credit: determined on a course by course basis.

Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) NEW Canadian Population Health Initiative (CPHI) eLearning Products!

Are you involved in health planning? Do you want to know more about a population health perspective and its impact on decision-making? CIHI offers seven new population health distance-learning opportunities. These eLearning courses are designed to introduce population health and guide users through associated CPHI reports in order to better understand and apply report findings. These new education products are available at NO CHARGE. To register contact CIHI Order Desk at orderdesk@cihi.ca to obtain an ID and password or call (613) 241-7860 ask for education.

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 chosen by the members.

CRDHA has a directory of established Study Clubs - there might be one in your area.

CRDHA also has printed resources to help you start a Study Club. For more information contact Darlene Fraser, Member Services Coordinator:
Phone: (780) 465-1756 or email: info@crdha.ca
Health Care Professional Resources

Center for Evidence Based Medicine (University of Toronto)
www.cebm.utoronto.ca/

The goal of this website is to help develop, disseminate, and evaluate resources that can be used to practice and teach EBM for undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing education for health care professionals from a variety of clinical disciplines. This site also serves as a support for the book entitled, Evidence-based Medicine: How to practice and teach EBM by David L. Sackett, Sharon E. Straus, W. Scott Richardson, William Rosenberg, and R. Brian Haynes.

How to Critically Evaluate a Research Paper
http://ktclearinghouse.ca/cebm/practise/ca/therapist/valid

Client Resources
Health on the Net
www.healthonnet.org/HONcode/Conduct.html

Are your clients looking online for reliable health information? Remind them to look for this emblem on a website they are visiting.

The Health on the Net (HON) certificate serves as a guarantee that this website, at the date of its certification, complies with and pledges to honor the 8 principles of the HON Code of Conduct as drawn up by the HON foundation.

A website should be certified by the HONcode before stating that it abides/follows the HONcode principles. For example: www.babycenter.ca/ This consumer site has an app which provides videos for your phone. Teething Information: www.babycenter.ca/baby/health/teething/

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The University of Alberta Dental Hygiene Alumni Chapter extends a cordial invitation to all U of A Dental Hygiene alumni to attend the annual

Dental Hygiene Reunion Reception 2011

Saturday, September 24, 2011

The Courtyard by Marriott Edmonton Downtown - Thornton Room
One Thornton Court, 99 Street and Jasper Avenue

3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Please join us to visit with friends, meet other dental hygiene alumni, and reconnect with faculty during Alumni Weekend. We will celebrate with a special gift to those celebrating five, ten, fifteen, twenty, etc. anniversaries of graduation. Hors d’oeuvres and a drink are complimentary, but registration is required.

Update your email address with us alumrec@ualberta.ca to receive U of A Dental Hygiene updates/event notices.

Register for Reunion Reception 2011 at:
www.ualberta.ca/alumni/weekend
Moving? Change of Name and Address Notification

The Dental Hygienists Profession Regulation requires that members of the College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Alberta (CRDHA) ensure that their mailing address is always current. Incorrect or out of date addresses can lead to missed mailings which may include important notices and documents. S. 31(1) of the Dental Hygienists Profession Regulation requires that members must provide a home address, telephone number, email address and fax (if applicable) when there are any changes to the information or at the request of the Registrar. Name changes must be submitted in writing. Address changes should include the following information:

Name (in full)          CRDHA ID Number

New Name (in full)      Old Address

New Address             Home Phone           Email

Effective Date          Signature

Changes in personal information can also be made online at www.crdha.ca. Member login required. Registrants are welcome to copy or cut out this name/address change card and use it to submit a name change or address change. Please contact the College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Alberta if you require further information.

Telephone: Toll Free (Alberta) 1-877-465-1756 Fax: (780) 440-0544 or email: info@crdha.ca