

# **M E M O R A N D U M**

## **COLLEGE OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS OF ONTARIO**

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**To:** Registrants and Interested Stakeholders

**From:** Brad Sinclair, Registrar

**Date:** Monday, February 11, 2013

**Title:** Proposed Drug Regulation: *Prescribing, Dispensing, Compounding, Using and Selling Drugs.*

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On January 25, 2013, Council approved the proposed Regulation, in principle, and it is being circulated for stakeholder comment in accordance with Schedule 2 of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA).

### **Background:**

In 2009, the Ontario government passed Bill 179, the *Regulated Health Professions Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009*. The legislation expanded access to controlled acts for several regulated health professions, including dental hygiene. The new legislation permits the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario to develop regulations regarding the prescribing, dispensing, compounding, using and selling of drugs. At this time, the regulation is limited to anticariogenics (fluoride and its salts) and antimicrobials (chlorhexidine and its salts).

CDHO participated in an interprofessional working group with a mandate to develop common principles related to the controlled act of prescribing, dispensing, compounding and selling drugs. While CDHO registrants were already authorized to use drugs in their practices, it was deemed prudent to include that fact in the new regulation.

CDHO registrants have always been able to use drugs in their practices. When the review of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* occurred in 2007, the CDHO requested the opportunity to develop regulations regarding the prescribing, dispensing, compounding and selling of drugs. While the CDHO had hoped for a broader spectrum to meet client needs, the CDHO was permitted to draft regulations for both fluoride and chlorhexidine.

The making of the regulation is authorized by the recent amendments to the *Dental Hygiene Act*. New or alternative drugs cannot be added to the list without first amending the regulation. While the *Dental Hygiene Act* permits the making of a regulation that incorporates a list by reference, such a list can be amended without Cabinet approval. The Ministry has not yet established the infrastructure for this option and is not permitting such regulations at this time for any College. This regulation does not affect the right that dental hygienists currently have to use drugs that are administered (e.g., topically) in the course of performing a procedure. It allows dental hygienists to send drugs home with the client.

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**Responses or comments to the proposed Drug Regulation are requested no later than 4:30pm on Friday, April 19, 2013.**

You may submit your comments by e-mail (preferable), mail or fax using this [feedback form](#) provided by the College.

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