

IMPORTANT ADVICE ON “OUTSOURCING”

To: All Members and Stakeholders
From: George Paraskevopoulos, RDT, President
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In 2003, the College initiated discussions with provincial regulators regarding dental laboratories “outsourcing work”, i.e. sending dentists’ prescriptions to laboratories located in unregulated jurisdictions outside of Canada for fabrication of devices. Since then, the College and provincial regulators under the Canadian Alliance of Dental Technology Regulators (CADR) held meetings with the Medical Devices Bureau of Health Canada seeking the position of government. The College also brought the issue to the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council (HPRAC) of the Minister of Health, other oral-health regulatory colleges, professional association and the RDTs in Ontario.

While consultation is still on-going, the College noted that dental laboratories from unregulated jurisdictions outside Canada are stepping up efforts to offer their services to Ontario and Canadian dental laboratories and dentists. Their services include fabrication of PFMs., crowns and bridges, dentures, frames etc. according to prescriptions.

The College reminds RDTs that subcontracting or “outsourcing” to another person or organization, in Ontario, or in another jurisdiction, where the subcontractor is NOT:

- a member of the CDTO or a member of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario; or
- performing dental technological processes under the supervision of a member of the CDTO or a member of the RCDSO

is jeopardizing the health and safety of the public. It is in breach of section 1.6 of *Ontario Regulation 798/93, Professional Misconduct*, made under the *Dental Technology Act, 1991*.

Section 1.6 stipulates that

“It is an act of professional misconduct for a member to knowingly subcontract dental technological services in breach of section 32(1) or (3) of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*.”

Section 32(1) of the *RHPA* states:

“No person shall design, construct, repair or alter a dental prosthetic, restorative or orthodontic device unless,

- (a) the technical aspects of the design, construction, repair or alteration are supervised by a member of the College of Dental Technologists of Ontario or the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario; or
- (b) the person is a member of a College mentioned in clause (a).

and, section 32(3) of the *RHPA* states:

“No person shall supervise the technical aspects of the design, construction, repair or alteration of a dental prosthetic, restorative or orthodontic device unless he or she is a member of the College of Dental Technologists of Ontario or the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario.”

We further remind RDTs, regardless of your position as owners and/or supervisors of dental laboratories, self-employed or employed by dental laboratories, you are responsible for:

- the shape, contour, structural elements of every device;
- choice of materials and processes; and
- the environment in which the device is processed.

When you impress your College issued stamp on an invoice, including “no charge” invoices for interim stages, to release a case, you are certifying that the case was designed, constructed, repaired or altered in accordance with the standards of the College. It conforms to the prescription and the invoice accurately reflects the processes, materials and charges. However, if you subcontract or “outsource” a case to an unregulated/unqualified individual and/or laboratory, not under your direct supervision, you cannot ascertain the materials, components and processes being used. Neither would you be able to certify that the case conforms to standards. As such, the College holds the position that you cannot impress your College issued stamp on the invoice to release the case.

Every RDT must take responsibility to work only with regulated providers, if ever they need to subcontract or “outsource” any case. The College believes that the health and safety of the public cannot be compromised. For public safety, we also ask you to ensure that you follow the College standard to purchase, and use materials and components licensed by Health Canada. The list of Health Canada licensed materials and devices are available on their website at www.mdall.ca , which is also accessible from the College website at www.cdto.ca.