



## Streamlined Professional Renewal: Registrant FAQs

### 1. How does the new streamlined professional renewal process benefit the public?

This change will mean that the public can be confident that when a dental hygienist is providing care, he/she has continuous, comprehensive, professional liability insurance coverage. When you pay your College and association fees at one time through the College website, you will automatically receive professional liability insurance through CDHA. While you will have the option to opt out of the CDHA professional liability insurance coverage, this can only be done after fees have been paid and upon proving you have been able to obtain equal or better coverage.

Therefore, this streamlined process removes the risk to the public and to dental hygienists of lapsed professional liability insurance coverage.

It should be noted that each year over 1,000 registrants do not have professional liability insurance on file with the College on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Of those, at least 100 registrants each year engage in practice without being insured. Practicing without valid professional liability insurance is considered professional misconduct and puts clients and dental hygienists at risk.

In addition, this change will ensure all dental hygienists in BC will have access to quality continuing education and other professional tools through CDHA and BCDHA to ensure they meet their regulatory obligation of maintaining safe and current care.



## **2. What will this mean for practicing registrants?**

Starting in 2017, all practicing dental hygienists in BC will be required to pay fees to both the College and the associations at the same time during the College renewal period. The new streamlined renewal means that all practicing dental hygienists in BC will enter their information and pay all their professional fees at one time on the College website during the College's renewal period. As a result, all practicing dental hygienists will be automatically covered by CDHA professional liability insurance.

If you are already a CDHA/BCDHA member, beginning in 2017 you will renew your membership at the same time that you renew your CDHBC registration.

If you are not already a CDHA/BCDHA member, you will be required to pay fees to the associations and be automatically given membership and professional liability insurance at the same time that you renew your CDHBC registration.

All dental hygienists will need to ensure that they have professional liability insurance coverage until February 28th, 2017. You can either obtain this by purchasing a CDHA/BCDHA membership for this interim period with a reduced fee in the fall of 2016, or through your current insurance provider.

If you do not wish to be affiliated with CDHA/BCDHA for membership and/or other benefits, you may opt out. In addition, if you can demonstrate that you are able to obtain an equal or higher level of professional liability insurance, you can opt out of the CDHA professional liability insurance as well. However, fees will not be refunded if you choose to do this.

## **3. What does this mean for non-practicing registrants?**

Non-practicing registrants are not required to carry current professional liability insurance and will therefore only be required to pay for the non-practicing CDHBC registration fee. In order to move to a full practicing category, the CDHA/BCDHA fee would be collected along with the additional registration fee due. If a non-practicing registrant wishes to purchase a CDHA/BCDHA support membership, they can contact CDHA directly.

## **4. Does this mean I have to pay all professional fees at one time?**

Yes, all professional fees will be due during the College's renewal period which is in January and February of each year. In order to make this more manageable for dental hygienists, the College is offering a fully refundable deposit plan through the registrant's profile on the CDHBC website.



## **5. How does the refundable deposit plan work?**

Starting on March 18, 2016 you may choose to make payments through a credit card to a refundable deposit account. This system can be accessed under the 'Make a Payment' tab of your registrant profile on the CDHBC website.

You can set up an amount and schedule of your choosing. They can be set up either on a monthly basis or even as a one-time payment. Any amount accumulated by January 2017 will be put towards the cost of your 2017-2018 renewal. This prepaid deposit amount is refundable if you decide to move out of province or cancel your registration prior to renewal.

## **6. Does this mean that the College and the associations are now one organization?**

The College is authorized to collect funds as an agent for the associations. When a registrant renews, these funds are transferred directly to the associations. The College and associations are not affiliated and remain three completely separate entities with different mandates.

Your College registration number will remain separate and distinct from your CDHA/BCDHA membership number.

## **7. Why did the College do this?**

The College believes that by aligning the renewal year of the associations with the College and collecting all professional fees from all dental hygienists in BC during the College's renewal period, there will be significant benefits to both the public and dental hygienists. These benefits include:

- The public will be assured that all dental hygienists in BC will automatically have access to comprehensive and continuous professional liability insurance coverage
- All dental hygienists will have access to the tools offered by the associations such as continuing education opportunities and other support systems to meet their obligations to the College and ensure they are providing competent and ethical care to the public
- Registrants will only have one deadline to remember and one place to renew
- Registrants will no longer have to send proof of professional liability insurance to the College
- Dental hygienists will only need to contact the College to update their contact information if it changes



## 8. Is this change within the College's mandate?

The College believes that this change has significant benefits to the public and therefore is in line with its mandate of public protection. The public now can be confident that when they receive care from a dental hygienist, he/she has continuous, comprehensive, professional liability insurance coverage. Furthermore, this change will ensure all practicing dental hygienists in BC will have access to quality continuing education and other professional tools through CDHA and BCDHA to ensure they meet their regulatory obligation of maintaining safe and current care.

Section 19(q.1) of the *Health Professions Act* states that a College's bylaws can do the following:

*"provide for payment by registrants, to the college as the agent for a health profession association or similar organization, of an amount equivalent to the fees of the association or organization, whether or not the registrant is a member of the association or organization"*

Section 25.1 of the College's bylaws that were amended on March 31st, 2015 state:

*(1) In this section, "association" means a health profession association as defined in section 1 of the Act or similar organization, whose members are registrants or persons registered or licensed for the practice of dental hygiene in another Canadian jurisdiction.*

*(2) In each fiscal year, the college may collect from registrants an amount equivalent to the annual fees of an association, whether or not the registrant is a member of the association, provided that the board and the association execute a written agreement to that effect.*

*(3) Funds received by the registrar under subsection (2) are collected by the college as agent for the association and are held by the college on trust for the association.*

The Board signed a written agreement with CDHA in March 2016 for CDHBC to act as an agent to collect CDHA and BCDHA fees.

## 9. How many registrants are currently CDHA/BCDHA members?

73% of registrants are already members of CDHA/BCDHA. 27% of registrants receive their professional liability insurance through other providers.

## 10. I want to purchase a higher level of professional liability insurance, can I?

Yes, you have the option to enhance your basic professional liability insurance coverage. This can be done by contacting CDHA directly or using another professional liability insurance provider.



## **11. I want to be part of the Independent Practice Network or Educators' Community, how do I do that?**

In order to purchase these additional memberships, you will need to log in to your CDHA membership profile and purchase it separately, or contact CDHA directly.

## **12. Can I keep the CDHA professional liability insurance if I opt out of being a member?**

Yes, you can retain the professional liability insurance provided by CDHA even if you do not want to remain a member of CDHA/BCDHA and have access to the other member benefits. You will need to contact CDHA directly to request that your membership be cancelled. Please note that the associations' fees will not be refunded.

## **13. Can I opt out of being a member and the professional liability insurance provided by CDHA?**

Yes, you are able to opt out of both being a member and the professional liability insurance provided by CDHA. However, this can only take place once all fees have been paid and you have renewed with CDHBC. In order to opt out of the professional liability insurance provided by CDHA, you will need to demonstrate that your proposed alternative policy is equal to or better than the policy provided by CDHA. If CDHBC is satisfied that the proposed alternative policy is acceptable, then you will need to contact CDHA directly to cancel both the membership and professional liability insurance policy. Please note that the associations' fees will not be refunded and you will be required to go through the process again if you wish to do the same thing in future renewal years.