

## INQUIRY COMMITTEE RECORD OF DECISION

**FILE NAME: DH1179**

### **FACTS**

On January 31, 2011, the Registrar received a written complaint from a member of the public, against a registrant of the College, related to standard of practice.

The complainant informed the Registrar that on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009, she received dental services from a registrant of the College. The complainant described the treatment as “very aggressive” and described “swabs covered in blood, then for days after my mouth was so painful”. The complainant explained that one month later, when her mouth had healed, she was left with the right side of her bottom lip being numb. When the alleged numbness still did not subside, the complainant informed dental staff, during a subsequent appointment in the dental office, of the numbness and was apparently told to wait a little longer to see if the feeling came back. The complainant stated that the numbness has continued and she has a constant feeling of her lip “coming out of anesthetic”.

In accordance with section 33(1) of the *Health Professions Act*, the College’s Inquiry Committee resolved to investigate the matter.

### **COMMITTEE DECISION**

The investigation consisted of written information received from the registrant and examination of the patient’s dental chart. After reviewing all the information the committee determined that was improbable that the dental hygiene treatment given to the complainant on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 would cause paralysis or paresthesia. While unlikely, the only probable cause of paralysis or paresthesia that could result from duties and activities under the Dental Hygiene Scope of Practice would be the administration of local anesthetic. However based on a review of the patient’s dental charts local anesthetic was not given during the October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 appointment.

The Committee determined that there had been no misconduct by the registrant and in accordance with the Act, the case was dismissed.

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**RELEVANT PROVISION OF ACT, REGULATION, OR BYLAWS:** Act section 32(1); 32 (2); 33(1); 33(5); 33(6)(a)

**STATUS:** Closed

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY:** *Health Professions Act*, s. 33, 36