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QAP Assessment Tool V4 Communication

The College of Dental Hygienists of BC has been committed to gathering feedback and information about the Quality Assurance Program (QAP) since the program's inception in 2012. With the launching of the new Online Learning Plan (OLP) focus has now turned to updating the QAP Assessment Tool. After seven years of providing the QAP Assessment Tool through the National Dental Hygienists Certification Board, the College is pleased to announce that a new version of the QAP Assessment Tool will be launched in January 2021. The QAP will now be hosted by CDHBC on a new platform. Hosting the QAP Assessment Tool in house will allow the College to be more nimble with incorporating BC Scope of Practice and Regulatory and Bylaw changes within the Tool. This change reflects the College's continued work towards meeting our mission of regulatory excellence in the public interest. It is important that the tool is a useful aid in fostering a registrants ongoing learning to ensure that the public receives safe and competent dental hygiene care.

The 2021 QAP Assessment Tool was developed by BC dental hygienists for BC dental hygienists. Dental hygienists from all practice settings across BC have been involved with all aspects of the QAP Tool development. This started with the College working to establish the blueprint in consultation with registered dental hygienists from across the province. These dental hygienists helped set the blueprint priority for content based on the QAP Content Categories and subcategories that registrants are already familiar with incorporating within their OLP. Dental Hygienists are also involved in question development, field testing and standard setting.

The QAP Assessment Tool will remain an online, open-book assessment designed to measure registrant's knowledge, application and critical-thinking abilities related to real life dental hygiene practice through a BC lens. Registrants will still have a maximum of two-and-a-half hours to complete a set amount of questions (in one sitting) once they begin the QAP Assessment Tool. The number of questions contained on the QAP Assessment Tool continues to be analyzed and will be shared with registrants prior to the launch. As in the past, the results of the QAP Assessment Tool will be incorporated into each registrant's OLP and will continue to inform their required learning process.

One of the notable changes to the new QAP Assessment Tool is the presentation within the platform. Questions will be in an interactive format consisting of a variety of question types (e.g., multiple choice, drag and drop, select from list, just to name a few). A technical tutorial on the use of the platform will be provided to registrants so that they have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the look and feel prior to completing the QAP Assessment Tool. To view a sneak peek at the format of the new tool, please [click here](#).

Preparation for the QAP Assessment Tool will remain the same as with the previous versions. The QAP Assessment Tool questions all have correlating resources. The resources used to develop questions are those that registrants may wish to consult as they prepare to complete the QAP Assessment Tool:

- Bowen, Denise M. and Pieren, Jennifer A. *Darby and Walsh Dental Hygiene Theory and Practice*, 5th Ed. 2020
- Blue, Christine M. *Darby's Comprehensive Review of Dental Hygiene*, 8th Ed. 2016
- CDHBC Regulations, Bylaws, Policies, and Interpretation Guidelines
- BC Center for Disease Control (BC CDC): *Communicable Disease Control Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Management*, October 2017

- WHMIS from WorkSafe BC

Registrants may still wish to complete the NDHCB Preparatory Tests available at: <http://www.ndhcb.ca/#!/prep-test/c12u2>. The Preparatory Test is available on-demand for a fee. Completion of the Preparatory Test may help registrants to determine knowledge areas that would be helpful for them to review prior to taking the QAP Assessment Tool, however, the NDHCB Preparatory Test will not familiarize the registrant with the process or format of the new platform.

An updated QAP Information Guide will be shared with registrants containing updated information on the QAP Assessment Tool blueprint, preparation guide and quick tips to navigating the platform in the near future.

At this time, the College is working on the annual budget which will include the finalization of the QAP Assessment Tool cost. The College anticipates the cost of the QAP Assessment Tool to be the same, if not less, than it was under the provision of the NDHCB.