



Root of the Matter

Professionalism and Credibility of Information

By: The CDHBC Dental Hygiene Practice Advisors

“Accuracy builds credibility.” Jim Rohn

Dental hygienists are educated on research methodologies and the critical analysis of information as it relates to the oral health needs of their clients. But is this where a dental hygienist’s responsibility to recognize credibility stops? Contemplate how critically appraising information also relates to your duties as a professional and your regulatory requirements.

As a profession, dental hygienists recognize a responsibility for ensuring that care plans and products recommended for client use are evidence informed, supported by research, and are safe for the public. It is imperative that dental hygienists undertake their due diligence to critically appraise information and rely on credible sources, as opposed to second or third hand information, when making determinations around client-centered care. The accuracy and integrity of sources relied upon to inform the provision of care should not be overlooked or taken for granted.

By the same token, this extends directly to professional issues and regulatory information. Similar to researching topics within clinical practice, it is important to obtain regulatory information from credible sources, and not to make decisions or jump to conclusions solely based on surface information that may be presented through word of mouth or over social media. In such cases it is important to ascertain the accuracy and completeness of the information and its credibility prior to acting upon the information.

All communications sent by the College directly relate to a registrant’s ability to practice safe, current and ethical care. Whether the information is related to direct client care or a registrant’s regulatory obligations, each piece of communication from the College should be read carefully and diligently. In addition, the College website continues to be a wealth of information, both as it relates to standards for direct client care as well as regulatory requirements and programs.

In a digital age where information comes at us quickly and in large volume, it is more important than ever that registrants ensure they are critically appraising the creditability of the information and take steps to ensure its accuracy.