



## **NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR DENTAL BOARD**

### **STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR DENTISTRY IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**

#### **Introduction:**

By authority of the Dental Act 2008 and Section 11 on By-laws, the Newfoundland and Labrador Dental Board has a mandate to provide by-laws, guidelines and policies to govern the establishment of dental practice and the provision of dental services in the province. These governing principles will be used by the Board in determining appropriate behavior of its licenceholders and may be used to assist the Complaints Authorization Committee in deliberations of professional misconduct.

These standards may be revised or amended from time to time to reflect changes to dental practice and management of patients.

#### **1. The Dental Practice**

Practising dentistry involves the provision of oral healthcare for the benefit of individual patients and communities in a culturally sensitive manner supported by foundation knowledge and skills in biomedical, behavioural and clinical dental science as outlined in the 43 KSAs used to determine a competent beginning dental practitioner in Canada. Therefore,

A dental practice to be approved by the Board must have a facility that can provide for the following KSA requirements for the practice of dentistry:

- Basic principles of practice administration, financial, and personnel management
- Maintenance of accurate and complete patient records in a confidential manner
- Infection control guidelines and their assessment
- Procedures to recognize, institute, and minimize occupational hazards related to the practice of dentistry and their assessment.
- Proper equipment, instrumentation, and related materials in place to provide a clinical examination, a radiographic examination, a diagnosis and treatment plan, informed consent, and where necessary determine the level of expertise required for treatment and

formulate a written request for a consultation and or/a referral when appropriate.

- A custodian of dental records as outlined in the Personal Health Information Act of NL
- Where the PHIA denotes “a corporation” it shall be a professional dental corporation otherwise the custodian must be a dentist licensed in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

## **2. The Dental Consult**

The competency profile of a dental practitioner requires that in order to make a consultation the attending health care practitioner must initially be competent to make a diagnosis and be qualified to provide treatment. The consultation must be made to derive an opinion or advice as to the condition of the patient and/or the best treatment possibilities with attending risks and benefits for the patient and the attending practitioner. Any possibility of referring the patient to the consultant should be addressed with the attending practitioner.

## **3. The Dental Referral**

A dental referral should only occur when a practitioner, having examined a patient to form a diagnosis and has done so and determined that although treatment is within their scope or ability to perform opts to transfer care to another practitioner. (It is inappropriate and unethical for a practitioner to accept a consult or referral from a health care practitioner not qualified to make a diagnosis of a dental condition).

## **4. The Dental Collaboration**

A dental practitioner may in their dental practice form a collaboration with a health care worker employed or under an independent agreement to treat the same patients in that practice. Consults or referrals are inappropriate from outside the practice. It would be appropriate for those health care workers to advise the patient to contact a dental practitioner for further advice or care.

Where collaboration exists in a practice there must be documentation in the patient dental record supporting this arrangement.