Schedule 1 Drugs and Dentists Scope of Practice

The College is frequently asked about the use of Schedule 1 drugs, such as Botulinum Toxin Type A (i.e. Botox®) and smoking cessation drugs, such as Zyban®, in dentistry. Both classes of drugs are Schedule 1 medications that dentists may only prescribe and administer within the Dentists Scope of Practice. It is the dentist's responsibility to ensure they have the skills, knowledge and competencies required to safely prescribe or administer any drug.

Dentists are responsible to ensure that any courses they take in preparation for prescribing or administering any Schedule 1 drug provides them with the knowledge and skills to administer these drugs safely. It is up to each registrant to self assess if the course meets their needs, and whether additional courses are required.

Note that dentists may only prescribe or administer Schedule 1 drugs under the following circumstances:

- the patient is a "patient of record" in their dental practice;
- the prescription/administration of the drug is part of a comprehensive dental treatment plan;
- the patient has received a comprehensive dental examination within a reasonable time period;
- the patient has completed a full medical history and has been assessed to be a suitable candidate for the recommended treatment or prescription;
- informed consent has been obtained for the treatment or prescription; and
- treatment takes place in an appropriate clinical setting.

Any prescription or administration of Schedule 1 drugs without adhering to these expectations is not permitted.

Note that dermal fillers are not Schedule 1 medications and are therefore not included in the scope of practice for dentists in B.C. and, as a result, may not be prescribed or administered by a dentist.

Prescribing or administering Schedule 1 medications outside the parameters outlined above could have an impact on the dentist's liability insurance. It is advisable that dentists check with their insurance provider if there are any questions about coverage.

An information sheet provides a factual summary or outline of instructions, information and/or processes that are relevant to the activities of the College.