



Reminder of the College's Position on the Use of N2 and Other Paraformaldehyde-Containing Materials

A member recently contacted the College about an advertisement he received in the mail. The flyer, from a Toronto-area dental supply company, advertised the sale of N2 Universal root canal cement.

N2 and other paraformaldehyde-containing materials, such as Sargenti, RC2B, and Endomethasone, have the potential to cause serious complications. These complications include the destruction of connective tissue and bone, intractable pain, paraesthesia and dysesthesia of the mandibular nerve, and chronic infections of the maxillary sinus. Members are reminded of the College's position that the use of paraformaldehyde-containing materials in root canal therapy of permanent teeth is not a standard of practice in this province. Accordingly, such materials must not be used.

Members should also be aware that N2 is not authorized for sale in Canada under Health Canada's medical devices regulations.

There would be very little defence available if a claim is advanced against a dentist involving the use of a non-licensed dental device or the unapproved use of a dental device. Liability would almost certainly be unavoidable. In

addition, aggravated, exemplary or punitive damages might be awarded for knowingly using a device in such circumstances.

It is important to note that these damages are not covered under the College's malpractice policy and would become the responsibility of the member.

The College forwarded a copy of the advertisement to the attention of Health

Canada. In turn, Health Canada investigated the matter and as a result, the dental supply company ceased selling the material.

If you have any questions about this article, please contact:

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Have We Got Your E-mail Address?

The College would like to be in a position to send out e-mail messages to alert all members about time-sensitive, critical information, like a SARS outbreak. The problem is that we do not yet have e-mail addresses for a significant enough portion of our membership to make this a reliable way to distribute important information.

We have pledged that e-mail addresses will only be used to send out information from the College. They will not be included in the membership listings.

So, if you haven't yet sent us your e-mail address, please consider forwarding your address to the College at info@rcdso.org. And thanks to all members who have already done so!

If you have any questions about this, please contact:

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