

Why does the College inspect laboratories?

The Ministry of Health and the College of Dental Technicians have determined that, in the interests of protecting the public, all persons providing the services of a dental technician must be registered with this College and comply with the supervision and ratio requirements set out in the Dental Technician Rules. In carrying out this duty the College will from time to time inspect laboratories. The authority for doing so is provided in the Act. Part 3 (28)(1) states "During regular business hours, an inspector may investigate, inquire into, inspect, observe or examine one or more of the following without a court order: (a) the premises...; (b) the records...; (c) the practice."

What if I am practicing out of my own home?

The authority provided to the College under the Act is to inspect the premises, equipment, and materials used by a registrant to practice the designated health profession. We recognize that, subject to municipal restrictions, some registrants may elect to practice from their own homes. The registrant in this instance is electing to provide the services of a health professional, which are subject to regulatory restrictions, from his own home and should be aware that the inspector will inspect the place of business wherever it may be located. An inspector will always try to be sensitive to the familial aspects involved in a business and will inspect premises from which registrants elect to provide services in a consistent and professional manner.

Who can inspect a laboratory?

The Act provides the Registrar with the authority to act as an inspector, and the College with the authority to appoint persons to act as inspectors.

The College has one permanent inspector, Nabil Tabet, and on occasion will appoint a private investigator as inspector for a particular inspection.

The inspector is under a strict duty that, in the course of carrying out his duties under this Act, he may not utilize or disclose any information received other than to those persons lawfully entitled to receive it.

What can an inspector do when he attends at the laboratory?

Inspectors have the authority to investigate, inquire into, inspect, observe or examine the premises, the equipment, the materials and/or the records (and may copy those records) and the practice of a registrant.

See Sections 28, 29, 30 HPA

Can the inspector take anything from my laboratory?

In the normal course of a regular inspection, the inspector may not seize or remove any record, property, or asset reviewed in the course of an inspection. However, the Inquiry Committee may authorize a person to apply to the Supreme Court for an Order that would authorize that person to enter into the premises of any person, conduct an inspection, require the production of materials and, on giving a receipt, seize and remove those materials. The Court may provide the College the authority for this type of inspection for both registrants and non registrants.

See Sections 28, 29, 30 HPA

What happens if I do not let the inspector come into my laboratory?

The inspector has the authority to inspect the premises during regular business hours. The College does not, and is not required to, make an appointment to inspect a laboratory. If a person obstructs an inspector in the lawful performance of his duties, he or she is violating Section 31 of the HPA.

How often will the College inspect a laboratory?

There are approximately 300 laboratories in British Columbia and new laboratories are opening monthly. The College attempts to schedule an inspection of all the laboratories in a three year period. The office also tries to inspect new laboratories and, at the outset of a new registration cycle, laboratories which formerly employed struck registrants.

The Inquiry Committee may also identify the need to inspect and in some instances re-inspect a particular lab due to a complaint or an alleged violation at any time.

See Section 27, (2) HPA

What will the inspector do when he comes to the laboratory?

The inspector will identify himself and, using a form provided by the College, note the following:

- the status of the current employee listing for the laboratory;
- that registration licenses are prominently displayed;
- that all persons working in the laboratory are registered with the College;
- that all work in progress is generated by a prescription and that all prescriptions are maintained in the place of business for the period specified in the Bylaws;
- that pursuant to the Bylaws there is a system in place to supervise and inspect services performed by students and assistants;
- that there is a system in place to deal with infection control.

When the inspector has completed his report he will ask the owner or manager to sign the report to acknowledge that the information noted by the inspector is correct. It may be necessary to alert the lab owner to a matter noted on the Inspection Report that needs attention. The Registrar receives a copy of all reports. Where there appears to be a violation of any requirements, these reports will be forwarded to the attention of the Inquiry Committee.

What can I do if I have any questions about the inspection process, the reports, or the actual inspection as it occurs?

Registrants may call the College office at any time with any questions they may have regarding the Inspection Program. They may also write to the Inquiry Committee at the address noted on the back page with any comments, queries or suggestions.

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THIS COLLEGE AT ALL TIMES
TO SERVE AND PROTECT THE PUBLIC,
AND TO EXERCISE ITS POWERS
AND DISCHARGE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES
UNDER ALL ENACTMENTS
IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.”***



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INSPECTIONS

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