

CDHM NEWS SHORT

Fall 2026 Issue 55

Mark Your Calendar

- **Upcoming Council Meetings: November 20 & 21, 2026**
- **2027/2028 Registration Renewal Opens November 1, 2026**
- **2026/2027 CCP Due April 30, 2027**

Office Closures:
The CDHM office will be closed on:

- November 11, 2026
- December 24, 2026, Closed at 12pm
- December 25, 2026
- December 31, 2026, Closed at 12pm
- January 1, 2027

New Web Resources and Announcements

New to the CDHM Website:

- Registrants will now only be able to upload their Liability Insurance as part of their Annual Renewals.
- Registrants will now be able to see the status of their submitted forms and requests on their CDHM account homepage.

Updated On the Website:

- Retirement of the Vital Tooth Whitening Guideline
- CPR Certification and Practice Direction Updates
  - Practice Direction for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
  - CPR Certification and Criminal Record Checks
- Update to the Interpretation Guideline for Use of Lasers in Dental Hygiene Practice



Greetings from CDHM Council

Happy Fall!

As summer draws to a close and fall activities are well underway, Council is turning its attention to the important work ahead. As priorities and initiatives continue to evolve, one thing remains constant: CDHM's steadfast commitment to its mandate to protect the public by ensuring Registered Dental Hygienists (RDHs) provide safe, competent, and ethical oral health care.

Our Registrar & CEO, Dr. Kyle Fraser, has now been in his role for more than a year. His fresh perspective has provided Council with valuable opportunities to reflect on longstanding practices, explore new approaches, and identify ways to strengthen our processes. This ongoing commitment to improvement supports effective governance and enhances our ability to serve the public interest.

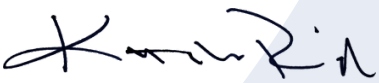
We continue to make steady progress toward the transition to the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA) and have now entered the stakeholder engagement phase. We are grateful for the dedication of our committee members and CDHM staff, as well as the collaboration of external stakeholders, including the University of Manitoba's Cholakis School of Dental Hygiene. These partnerships are essential as we navigate this significant regulatory transition.

Another important milestone is Council's preparation to appoint its RDH Council members. Effective governance requires a thoughtful balance of skills, knowledge, experience, and diverse perspectives. Recognizing existing strengths, identifying competency gaps, and addressing opportunities for development are essential to building a strong and effective Council. I would like to acknowledge Lorraine Glassford for developing a Skills and Competency Matrix to support this process. This tool will help guide Council composition and development, strengthening our collective ability to make informed decisions in the public interest.

As I prepare to conclude my term as Council Chair, I want to express my sincere appreciation to my fellow Council members, in particular Co-Vice-Chairs, Lorraine and Joan, and our dedicated CDHM staff, Kyle, Valerie, and Annie. Your commitment, professionalism, and contributions have been instrumental in advancing the College's work and fulfilling its public protection mandate.

Serving as Chair during a period of continued growth and governance modernization has been both a privilege and a rewarding experience. I am grateful for the opportunity to deepen my understanding of regulatory governance, develop my leadership skills, and work collaboratively with two Registrars, dedicated Council members, fellow Vice-Chairs, and governance coaches. These relationships and experiences have contributed immensely to my professional and personal growth.

It has been an honour to serve as Council Chair. While I will miss working closely with Council members and CDHM staff, I leave this role with tremendous appreciation for what we have accomplished together and confidence in Council's continued commitment to effective, accountable, and forward-thinking regulation in the public interest.



Submitted by:
Kathleen Reid
Council Chair



Council Meeting Highlights

August 19, 2026 and September 18 & 19, 2026

Council has continued its work on several important regulatory, governance, and operational matters. Recent highlights include:

- **RHPA Reserved Acts:** Council received an update on CDHM's Reserved Acts submission under the RHPA. The submission remains with the Ministry's Legislative Unit, and CDHM is awaiting next steps.
- **Four Arrows Regional Health Authority:** CDHM continues to work with the Ministry regarding the approval of Four Arrows as an Oral Health Program. CDHM has provided additional information and feedback to the Ministry and is awaiting a response.
- **2027 Registrant Fees:** Council approved a 1.5% increase to the 2027 practising registration fee, from $561 to $570, and a 1.5% increase to the non-practising registration fee, from $297 to $301.
- **Laser Guideline:** Council approved an updated Interpretation Guideline for the Use of Lasers in Dental Hygiene Practice, clarifying competency expectations.
- **Vital Tooth Whitening Guideline:** Council approved the retirement of the Interpretation Guideline: Vital Tooth Whitening.
- **Financial Statements:** Council reviewed CDHM's year-end financial statements and approved the revised statements for presentation at the Annual General Meeting.
- **Strategic Planning:** Council approved engaging an external facilitator to support the development of CDHM's next strategic plan, recognizing the upcoming transition to the RHPA and the broader changes occurring in the regulatory environment.
- **Council Appointment Process:** Council continued preparations for the proposed transition to an appointed Council model, including reviewing information to support registrants in understanding the proposed changes ahead of the Annual General Meeting.

Submitted by:
Dr. Kyle Fraser
Registrar & CEO



Oral Cancer Screening Survey: Thank You to Registrants

Thank you to the 137 registrants who participated in CDHM's Oral Cancer Screening Practices Survey that closed back in June. Your feedback provides valuable insight into current oral cancer screening practices across Manitoba and will help inform CDHM's consideration of future registrant supports.

The results highlight several important themes. While 60 respondents reported that they always perform all components of a comprehensive oral cancer screening, including intraoral and extraoral examinations, at every visit, others identified opportunities to strengthen consistency in practice. Appointment time constraints were the most frequently identified barrier, followed by situations where another oral health professional typically performs part or all of the screening.

Registrants also identified areas where additional education and practical resources would be beneficial. Recognition of abnormal or suspicious lesions, temporomandibular joint (TMJ) assessment, and extraoral examination techniques were among the most frequently identified educational needs. The most requested supports included continuing education opportunities, visual examples of abnormal findings, educational webinars, clinical refresher courses, and documentation templates.

How will CDHM use the results?

The findings will help inform the consideration of practical resources and supports for addressing the needs identified by registrants. These results also provide insight into the realities of practice environments and potential barriers to implementing comprehensive oral cancer screening consistently.

CDHM sincerely thanks all registrants who took the time to share their experiences and perspectives. Your participation helps ensure that future resources are informed by feedback from the profession and support the delivery of safe, effective, and consistent dental hygiene care to Manitobans.

Submitted by:
Dr. Kyle Fraser
Registrar & CEO



A YEAR IN REVIEW: REGISTRAR'S REFLECTIONS

As fall arrives, it provides an opportunity to reflect on the past year and look ahead. It has been an active and productive year for the College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba (CDHM), with important work underway to strengthen regulation, support registrants, and prepare for the future of dental hygiene in Manitoba.

Preparing for the Regulated Health Professions Act

A significant focus this year has been preparing for Manitoba's transition to the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA). CDHM has worked closely with Manitoba Health's Legislative Unit, submitted proposed reserved acts for dental hygienists, and participated in consultations with health regulators, educational institutions, Indigenous organizations, and other stakeholders. This work represents an important opportunity to modernize dental hygiene regulation, reflect contemporary practice, and consider how regulation can support improved access to oral health care across Manitoba.

Supporting Registrants and Access to Care

Throughout the year, CDHM continued to develop practical resources to help registrants understand their professional responsibilities and navigate evolving practice expectations. The College also continued supporting practice owners and operators by responding to questions about independent practice, advertising, business arrangements, and regulatory requirements.

Engagement with government, health regulators, Indigenous organizations, and community partners remained an important part of this work. In particular, CDHM has been collaborating with a community partner to support the development of an Oral Health Program within the Four Arrows Regional Health Authority.

These relationships help inform how regulation can support safe, competent, and accessible dental hygiene services that respond to community needs.

Strengthening Modern Regulation

CDHM continued collaborating with other health regulators through the Manitoba Alliance of Health Regulatory Colleges on issues related to regulatory modernization, governance, and interprofessional practice. Internally, the College has also continued strengthening governance education, clarifying roles and responsibilities, and improving regulatory resources and processes to ensure its work remains focused on its core mandate: public protection.

Looking Ahead

The year ahead will bring continued work toward the RHPA transition, alongside CDHM's ongoing responsibilities to protect the public, support competent practice, and provide clear regulatory expectations for registrants. As dental hygiene continues to evolve, the College will remain focused on ensuring that regulation responds to changing practice while maintaining appropriate standards of accountability and public protection.

I would like to thank CDHM Council, Committees, Staff, and registrants for their continued commitment to the profession and the people we serve. It is a privilege to serve as Registrar & CEO, and I am proud of the progress made over the past year and the relationships helping shape the future of dental hygiene in Manitoba.

As we enter another fall season, I encourage everyone to reflect on how far we have come, recognize the work that remains, and look forward to the opportunities ahead.

Warm regards,

Submitted by:
Dr. Kyle Fraser
Registrar & CEO



SERVICE CODES AND ETHICAL BILLING PRACTICES

The College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba (CDHM) receives questions from registrants about service codes, billing practices, and the services associated with specific codes.

The College's regulatory role is to establish expectations for registrants' professional conduct, including accurate documentation, ethical billing practices, and accountability for the services they provide. The College does not develop service coding systems or determine the specific services included within individual codes.

Service coding systems are developed by organizations, including professional associations to support standardized descriptions of services and procedures, including for third-party insurance claims. For example, the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) developed the National List of Service Codes (CDHA-NLSC) for use by its members, while the Canadian Dental Association (CDA) developed the Uniform System of Codes and List of Services (CDA USC&LS) for use by its members.

Dental hygienists, as employees or contractors, may be expected to use an employer or practice owner's coding system. Regardless of the system used, registrants are responsible for understanding the applicable codes and ensuring that the services provided and billed for are accurately represented.

CDHM Expectations on Billing and Coding

Registrants are responsible for ensuring that billing is accurate, transparent, and supported by the services provided and the documentation in the client record. This includes:

- **Understanding the applicable code descriptions.** Registrants are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the services described in, and any limitations associated with, the codes that are applied during a client care appointment.
- **Ensure codes accurately reflect the services provided.** The code selected must appropriately represent the service performed and be consistent with the client record. For example, time spent performing additional procedures that are not described in any code, such as a digital scan, should not automatically be included with another code, such as a scaling code, unless permitted by the applicable code description.
- **Billing only for services appropriately represented by the code.** The code used must correspond to the service actually provided. Registrants should not select a code solely because it is available or routinely used in their practice setting. The service billed must be supported by the care provided and documented in the client record.
- **Maintaining accurate documentation.** Client records must accurately reflect the services provided. Where a code is time-based, registrants should ensure that the time recorded and billed is consistent with the requirements of the applicable coding system.

Ultimately, dental hygiene registrants are accountable to the client for ensuring that the client record is accurate, and appropriate service codes are applied. Using a particular coding system, following an employer's billing practices, or relying on established office procedures does not remove this registrant responsibility.

Where to Direct Questions About Specific Codes
Registrants who require clarification about the meaning of a specific service code, the services included within it, or the appropriate application of a code should consult the organization responsible for that coding system. For questions about the National List of Service Codes (CDHA-NLSC), contact the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA). For questions about the Uniform System of Codes and List of Services (CDA USC&LS), contact the Canadian Dental Association (CDA).

The CDHM can provide guidance on transparent, factual, and ethical billing practices.

Submitted by:
Valerie Olivier
Deputy Registrar

GREETINGS FROM THE MDHA

Fall is here, and with it comes a fresh season of opportunities to connect, learn, and keep moving forward at the Manitoba Dental Hygienists Association (MDHA)!

One of the most exciting initiatives this year has been our recent Lobby Day, which took place on October 7th. The day included 8 individual meetings with various MLAs as well as a reception period. Our conversations were extremely positive and promising. Our message was clear – every Manitoban deserves access to oral health care. Our team walked away from the day with much to follow up on and every reason to believe that the future of dental hygiene care in Manitoba is bright!

Thank you for your continued dedication. We look forward to a season of learning, growth, and collaboration as we strengthen the voice of dental hygienists in Manitoba.

Submitted by:
Lee Hurton
MDHA Executive Director
executivedirector@mdha.ca

Resources for Registrants

The CDHM office regularly receives questions about registration, renewal, and practice requirements. The following resources provide helpful information and guidance on some of the most frequently asked questions.

What are the requirements for Annual Renewal?

Visit the Annual Renewal Page for information about renewal requirements and the steps needed to maintain your registration.

What are the current CPR certification requirements?

Visit the CPR Certification and Criminal Records Check Page for information about CPR certification and criminal records check requirements.

Do you have questions about Supervision Requirements?

Review the Supervision Requirements Practice Direction found on the Practice Resources Page.

What are the requirements for Extended Practice or Advanced Practice Rosters?

View the applicable requirements in the Advanced Practice Rosters Section.

Do you need a Letter of Good Standing?

Visit the Letter of Good Standing (Verification of Registration) Requests Page. for information about requesting a letter.

Has your Last Name changed?

Visit the Name Change Request Section to learn how to update your registration information.

Are you considering transferring to the Non-Practicing Register?

Visit the Registration Transfers Section for information about registration transfer requirements and procedures.