

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in relation to the proposed changes to the scope of practice of dentists and auxiliaries. As a dentist, I have been in contact and worked with many hygienists and therapists over the years. It is absolutely essential that they continue to require strict supervision from dentists as I feel that their diagnostic abilities/capabilities are very limited. As well, their level of scientific knowledge and treatment planning skills is not comparable to that of the dentists. It would be grossly negligent of the dental board to allow for potential misdiagnoses and subsequently improper treatment of patients. Such proposed changes in the scope of practice will only result in the abuse of the system and will completely remove any distinction between dentists and the auxiliaries thereby resulting in a lower quality of treatment. Should such changes take place, there will be little need for anyone to undertake dentistry in order to provide majority of the treatment. Why would people bother to go to university for a minimum five years when they are able to perform the same procedures after a much shorter education period? This will only further flood the already saturated market and further exacerbate employment issues for dentists. I ask that you seriously reconsider your proposed changes as the negatives far outweigh the positives and it would be greatly disappointing and reflective of an inherent lack of insight into the dental field should the changes take place.

Regards,
Dr J Kim