



Draft Standard of Practice Regarding Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Abuse

Dec 6, 2024

Consultation Overview

The College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia (CDHNS), Denturists Licensing Board of Nova Scotia (DLBNS), and the Nova Scotia Dental Technicians Association (NSDTA), are seeking feedback on the joint draft *Standard of Practice Regarding Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Abuse* (the draft Standard). Registrants of the three oral health regulators and all system partners are invited to provide feedback during a two-week period from **Dec 6 to Dec 20, 2024**.

Those wishing to submit feedback on this draft Standard are invited to do so via email by **December 20, 2024**, to registrar@cdhns.ca with “Draft Sexual Misconduct Standard” in the subject line.

Background

Nova Scotia’s [Regulated Health Professions Act \(RHPA\)](#) was passed on November 9, 2023. It is anticipated that within the next two years, the RHPA will replace all existing Acts governing health professions in Nova Scotia (including the [Dental Hygienists Act](#), the [Denturists Act](#), and the [Nova Scotia Dental Technicians Act](#)).

We expect that the existing Acts governing all oral health professions will be repealed and the professions migrated to the RHPA in early 2025.

In March 2024, the [Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network](#) (the “Network”) was tasked by the Department of Health and Wellness to establish the minimum requirements for a standard on sexual abuse and sexual misconduct. The objective of the minimum requirements is to establish a consistent framework and uniform definitions concerning sexual misconduct amongst Nova Scotia’s regulated health professions.

The need for a consistent framework and uniform definitions concerning sexual misconduct is required under the *Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA)* which was passed by the Nova Scotia Government in November 2023. The RHPA provides a common legislative foundation for all regulated health professions in Nova Scotia.

On November 8, 2024, the **mandatory minimum requirements** for sexual misconduct and sexual abuse standards were approved by the Network, which included:

- Uniform definitions of sexual misconduct (including sexual abuse) and client;
- The prohibition of sexual misconduct;
- A mandatory duty to report sexual misconduct to regulators and employers, and to co-operate in regulatory proceedings related to sexual misconduct.

While the CDHNS, DLBNS, and NSDTA continue to be governed by their respective Acts until migration to the RHPA is complete, the RHPA's *General Regulations* require all health regulators (including those not yet migrated to the RHPA) to adopt the mandatory standard of practice for sexual misconduct and sexual abuse, with an **effective date of January 8, 2025**.

The CDHNS, DLBNS, and NSDTA are inviting feedback on the draft Standard of Practice regarding Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Abuse. While the Standard must meet the requirements set out in the Regulated Health Professions General Regulations, and the mandatory requirements set out by the Network document approved on Nov 8, 2024, your feedback will be shared with the three Councils/Board for their consideration prior to approving the Joint Standard of Practice.

Please click on the following links to complete your review:

- the [draft Joint Standard of Practice Regarding Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Abuse](#), and
- the [NSRHPN Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Abuse Standard Requirements](#).

The CDHNS, DLBNS, and NSDTA has been working with the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia to achieve alignment of our standards pertaining to sexual misconduct and abuse.

Sincerely,



Stacy Bryan, CDHNS Registrar



Maureen Hope, DLBNS Registrar



Emily Preeper, NSDTA Secretary