

December 2, 2024

College of Dental Surgeons of Alberta
Suite 402, 7609 – 109 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T6G 1C3

Alberta College of Dental Hygienists
302, 8657-51 Ave NW
Edmonton, AB T6E 6A8

College of Alberta Dental Assistants
166-14315 118 Ave NW
Edmonton, AB T5L 4S6

Re: Acceptance Request regarding Section 527 of Alberta's Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Code

DASH File Number: [OHS-ACC-001456]

Thank you for your November 25, 2024 request for an acceptance regarding section 527 of the OHS Code, concerning recapping of dental needles.

The Alberta *OHS Act* allows a Director to issue an acceptance to a work site party specified in section 20 of the *OHS Act* if, in the Director's opinion, an alternative approach provides equal or greater protection than that provided for by the OHS regulations or OHS Code.

I have completed a review of the request and all submitted information. Based on the review, the alternative approach proposed meets the acceptance criteria described in section 20 of the *OHS Act*. Therefore, I am granting an acceptance to the College of Dental Surgeons of Alberta, Alberta College of Dental Hygienists and College of Alberta Dental Assistants subject to the following terms, conditions and general requirements.

Terms and Conditions

- This acceptance applies to all dental offices in Alberta.
- The terms and conditions of this acceptance must be included as part of any standard of practice around handling of dental sharps issued by the College of Dental Surgeons of Alberta, Alberta College of Dental Hygienists or College of Alberta Dental Assistants, where the standard of practice includes recapping dental needles.
- The work procedures in the document "Policy Protocol Sharps, Syringes & Safety Engineered Syringes (SES)", supplied by the College of Dental Surgeons of Alberta on November 25, 2024 as part of this acceptance application, must be followed by all dental and dental hygiene offices wishing to recap needles under this acceptance.

- A copy of this acceptance must be posted in a conspicuous place at each dental office, or, if posting is not practicable, workers are informed of the acceptance including the terms and conditions.
- If there is a change in work site condition, work process, operation, or other thing that may impact this acceptance, the College of Dental Surgeons of Alberta, Alberta College of Dental Hygienists and/or College of Alberta Dental Assistants must notify the Director of the change as soon as possible.

General Requirements:

- In accordance with section 20(6) of the *OHS Act*, the College of Dental Surgeons of Alberta, Alberta College of Dental Hygienists and College of Alberta Dental Assistants and all regulated dental offices must comply with this acceptance, including all terms and conditions, or comply with the original legislative requirement(s).
- All other requirements of the OHS legislation must continue to be met.

This acceptance expires on December 2, 2029 or such time as it is rescinded or legislative changes make it invalid or unnecessary.

Sincerely,

An electronic signature consisting of a blue, stylized scribble. Below the scribble, the text "Electronically signed" is printed in a small, black font.

Xiangning Fan, MD, FRCPC
Director of Medical Services