

# Alberta Dental Association and College Hearing Tribunal Decision February 8, 2018

## IN ACCORDANCE WITH BYLAW 20 (7) OF THE ALBERTA DENTAL ASSOCIATION AND COLLEGE

### **BRIEF SUMMARY OF FACTS**

Dr. Carlos Patrickson extracted the four third molars of a female patient who was forty one years old at the time of treatment. The patient continued to experience ongoing pain for more than six weeks after the extractions. Dr. Patrickson administered treatment for dry socket that clearly was not providing anything but temporary relief of the patient's symptoms. This treatment including multiple injections of local anesthetic over an extended period of time. After several weeks of unsuccessful treatment, Dr. Patrickson did refer the patient to a specialist and the patient was diagnosed with osteomyelitis by another practitioner.

### **ADMISSION OF UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT BY DR. CARLOS PATRICKSON**

On February 8, 2018, a Hearing Tribunal of the Alberta Dental Association and College found Dr. Patrickson guilty of unprofessional conduct and he was sanctioned. A Hearing Tribunal are the decision makers at a hearing and are comprised of a member of the public appointed by the Government of Alberta and three dentists registered in Alberta. The Hearing Tribunal accepted the admissions of unprofessional conduct by Dr. Patrickson.

Dr. Patrickson admitted he had engaged in unprofessional conduct in relation to post-operative care of the four extractions. Specifically, Dr. Patrickson admitted he continued to provide treatment for alveolar osteitis/dry socket treatment to the patient when it was not working and he failed to recognize his treatment approach was not successful. He admitted that he failed to recognize that the radiographic and clinical evidence was suggestive of possible osteomyelitis and he did not obtain reasonable dental imaging to support his continued treatment approach for dry socket. Dr. Patrickson admitted that he failed to refer the patient to an appropriate specialist in a timely or appropriate manner.

Dr. Patrickson also admitted that he failed to obtain informed consent for his continued injections of local anesthetic to the patient in his treatment approach.

### **HEARING TRIBUNAL**

The Hearing Tribunal noted that the May 26 radiograph showed evidence of possible osteomyelitis that should have been recognized by Dr. Patrickson. It was at this appointment, that Dr. Patrickson should have recognized that the dry socket was not resolved and that his treatment was not working.

### **PENALTY**

The Hearing Tribunal accepted the Joint Submission on Penalty and issued the following orders against Dr. Patrickson, noting this was his second finding of unprofessional conduct:

1. Six week suspension;
2. Reimbursement of the cost of treatment to the patient in the amount of \$1,122.00;
3. Completion of the Ethics Program by July 1, 2018 which will not count toward Dr. Patrickson's continuing education at Dr. Patrickson's expense; and
4. Full costs of the investigation and hearing in the amount of \$21,409.28.