



PODCAST

**A CPS-BC Alert to Registrants
January 23, 2016**

Re: Laser Use in Practice - REVISED

On behalf of the Board and Inquiry and Quality Assurance Committees

Dear Registrants,

Please read carefully the following regarding the use of laser therapy in practice. The College policy has been revised with respect to the delegation of the application of laser.

Patient Selection

Registrants must be cognizant that the use of laser therapy is not 'risk free'. Laser therapy has a risk of consequent pedal injury, particularly in patients who have conditions such as peripheral vascular disease and peripheral neuropathy and therefore have significant risk for treatment morbidity.

The College strongly advises all podiatric practitioners utilizing laser therapy to exercise caution with its use and employ strict patient selection criteria.

Informed Consent

Registrants are reminded that as with all recommended treatments, the patient must be informed of all possible risks of laser therapy and informed consent must be obtained. Registrants should document the obtaining of informed consent in these cases carefully.

Advertising

The College has received information regarding registrants who advertise laser treatment and use terms such as 'pain free', 'risk free', 'no adverse effects', 'most successful treatment for fungus', and 'guaranteed results'. There are many additional similar phrases employed in marketing.

Such content is variously not accurate, conveys guarantees and is not objectively provable. Registrants are reminded this type of terminology is not permitted in advertising.

Where marketing that contains such verbiage is brought to the College's attention, the registrant will be contacted with a view to ensuring that immediate steps are taken to amend the content.

Registration of Laser Equipment

Registrants are reminded that all lasers used in practice must be registered with the College. This includes equipment brought on site by, or rented from, third parties. The College requires the name and location of the practice at which the laser therapy occurs, and the manufacturer and model.

No Delegation of Laser Therapy

The application of laser for the purpose of cutting tissue may be performed only by registrants and is not delegable. The application of laser for destruction of tissue may be delegated to a Registered Nurse (a CRNBC active practice registrant) only, and only under the direction of a registrant, in accordance with College policies; delegation of this laser task is not otherwise permitted. 🙌