



Communiqué regarding the

NEW AAP Classification of Periodontal and Peri-Implant Diseases and Conditions published in June 2018

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November 5, 2018:

The NDHCB received correspondence from different sources asking if there would be changes to the questions on the National Dental Hygiene Certification Board Examination following the publication in June 2018 of the NEW Classification scheme for periodontal and peri-implant diseases and conditions from the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP).

The answer is YES. This new classification of periodontal and peri-implant diseases includes numerous changes from the 1999 Classification of periodontal diseases that was the standard of practice used to diagnose and classify periodontal diseases in the past. The numerous changes to this new classification are based on extensive reviews of literature on all types of periodontal and peri-implant diseases. It presents an innovative model for identifying and diagnosing periodontal diseases that introduces a multidimensional staging and grading system, similar to medical models.

The new 2018 AAP Classification of Periodontal and Peri-Implant Diseases and Conditions will be integrated in the National Dental Hygiene Certification Examination as of MAY 2020.

This leaves enough time for all Canadian dental hygiene programs, to review the literature surrounding the new classification, incorporate the information into their curriculum not only in theory, but with direct client care.

Attached is the link to the Summary paper from the 2017 World Workshop named: *A new classification scheme for periodontal and peri-implant diseases and conditions – Introduction and key changes from the 1999 classification* by Caton et al, 2018. Link: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/jcpe.12935>. If you have not done so, download the pdf of the above link and, in the document, you will see that there are another 22 hyperlinks of accompanying papers which are consensus reports or review papers that provide a thorough explanation for the rationale, criteria and interpretation of the proposed classification. Here is a link to a summary of all supporting documents without any hyperlinks for your information: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/jcpe.12933>

As mentioned during the October 2018 Dental Hygiene Symposium organized by the AAP in Vancouver, where some of the authors of the new classification presented an overview of the changes from the 1999 classification, it is clear that all parties involved are transitioning towards the integration of this new standard for diagnosing periodontal diseases. Leading organizations representing dentistry, periodontology and dental hygiene programs in the US and Canada will be implementing this new classification in their curriculum immediately. Furthermore, organizations responsible for certification programs in all these areas are also incorporating this new classification into their evaluation mechanisms as of May 2020. In other words, both the National Dental Hygiene Certification Board of Canada and the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination of the United States will be testing candidates using this new classification in May 2020.

If you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact the NDHCB.