The cannabis craze: Dealing with reality – addressing substance abuse in your practice and workplace

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Nadine Wentzell is a workplace drug and alcohol/cannabis consultant who works with employers across Canada to help them address the health and safety risks of substance abuse. Her knowledge of illicit and prescription drugs and substance abuse combined with a strong background in science, continuous learning, and experience in many different types of work environments, enables her to provide realistic and practical solutions to this multi-faceted problem. As a pharmacist, consultant, author, and speaker with over 25 years’ experience, many spent as a narcotics inspector with Health Canada, Nadine brings a unique skillset to addressing the misuse and abuse of cannabis and other drugs and fostering a safe workplace and healthy people, including patients and clients.

COURSE OUTLINE
Cannabis use, whether medical or recreational, has many health and safety implications. This course will cover trends in cannabis and other drug use, including workplace concerns; the impact on staff and patients; and strategies to address these concerns. Opioid use and interactions with benzodiazepines that may be used or prescribed in a dental office will be discussed. Key areas to be covered include: what practitioners need to know about cannabis and other drugs of abuse and why cannabis use is a significant concern, evidence-based facts and current practices on medical use, how to address cannabis use with staff and patients/clients, and educational resources for staff and patients/clients, all based on best practices.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
By the end of this course, participants will:

• Understand the difference between authorization and prescription cannabis for medical purposes
• Know the difference between medical and recreational cannabis use
• Understand the difference between cannabidiol (CBD) and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and associated workplace implications
• Know how cannabis differs from alcohol and other drugs that may be misused/abused
• Have a process to address cannabis and other drug use that covers employees and patients/clients
• Be familiar with key policy elements to address substance use