

**College of Dental Technologists of Alberta
Standards of Practice**

*College of Dental
Technologists of Alberta*



Standards of Practice

Under the Authority of the
Health Professions Act
Section 133

- INTRODUCTION:** Compliance with these Standards of Practice requires that Dental Technologists and Dental Technicians (Regulated Member(s)) fabricate, duplicate, alter or repair custom made dental appliances in a quality manner. These Standards of Practice are required under the Health Professions Act. Regulated Members are required to follow these Standards of Practice.
- DEFINITION:** Standards of Practice for a profession sets out quality requirements that are essential to a Regulated Members' practice. These Standards of Practice set out quality requirements specific to dental technology.
- PURPOSE:** Provincial Legislation has given the privilege of self-governing, self-regulating and self-discipline to the College of Dental Technologists of Alberta (the College). As professionals, Regulated Members must adhere to these Standards of Practice, which set out professional responsibilities in the practice of dental technology.
- DUTY:** It is the responsibility of each Regulated Member to know, understand and adhere to governing laws including the Health Professions Act, Dental Technologists Profession Regulation, Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics.

DEFINITIONS

- 1) **ADULT INTERDEPENDENT PARTNER:** a person is the adult interdependent partner of another person if: (a) the person has lived with the other person in a relationship of interdependence
- (i) for a continuous period of not less than 3 years, or
 - (ii) of some permanence, if there is a child of the relationship by birth or adoption, or (b) the person has entered into an adult interdependent partner agreement with another person but does not include a former adult interdependent partner.¹
- 2) **ADULT INTERDEPENDENT PARTNER RELATIONSHIP:** a relationship outside of marriage in which two people: share one another's lives; are emotionally committed to one another; and, function as an economic and domestic unit. A person who is a spouse cannot be part of an adult interdependent relationship.
- 3) **COLLEGE:** The governing body of the College of Dental Technologists of Alberta as set forth in the Health Professions Act of Alberta (HPA).

¹ | Government of Alberta. (2002). Adult Interdependent Relationships Act. Edmonton: Author. Available at: <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/A04P5.pdf>

4) CONTINUING COMPETENCE REQUIREMENTS: Those requirements as set forth in the Health Professions Act and the Dental Technologists Profession Regulation.

5) CLIENT: A dentist, denturist or other Regulated health care practitioner primarily responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of a Patient.

6) PATIENT:

a) A “patient” is defined as an individual including a spouse or adult interdependent partner, awaiting or receiving oral health care services and or treatment where the Registered Dental Technologist/Technician knew or reasonably ought to have known, that they were providing care to the individual and satisfies any of the following conditions listed below:

- I. The Registered Dental Technologist/Technician has charged or received payment from the individual or a third party on behalf of the individual.
- II. The Registered Dental Technologist/Technician has contributed to a health record or file for the individual.
- III. The individual has consented to oral health care services and or treatment by the Registered Dental Technologist/Technician.

b) An individual will be considered a patient for one-year (365 days) after the last date of professional interaction between the individual and the Registered Dental Technologist/Technician.

7) REGULATION: Dental Technologists Profession Regulation, Alberta Regulation 243/2004.

8) RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES: Those requirements as set forth in the Dental Technologists Profession Regulation.

9) SEXUAL ABUSE: means, as defined in section (1)(1)(nn.1) of the HPA, the threatened, attempted or actual conduct of a regulated member towards a patient that is of a sexual nature and includes any of the following conduct:

- (i) sexual intercourse between a regulated member and a patient of that regulated member;
- (ii) genital to genital, genital to anal, oral to genital, or oral to anal contact between a regulated member and a patient of that regulated member;
- (iii) masturbation of a regulated member by, or in the presence of, a patient of that regulated member;
- (iv) masturbation of a regulated member’s patient by that regulated member;
- (v) encouraging a regulated member’s patient to masturbate in the presence of that regulated member;

(vi) touching of a sexual nature of a patient's genitals, anus, breasts or buttocks by a regulated member.

10) SEXUAL MISCONDUCT: means, as defined in section (1)(1)(nn.2) any incident or repeated incidents of objectionable or unwelcome conduct, behaviour or remarks of a sexual nature by a regulated member towards a patient that the regulated member knows or ought reasonably to know will or would cause offence or humiliation to the patient or adversely affect the patient's health and well-being but does not include sexual abuse.

11) SEXUAL NATURE: does not include any conduct, behaviour or remarks that are appropriate to the service provided, as defined in section (1)(1)(nn.3).

THE PRACTICE OF DENTAL TECHNOLOGY

In their practice, Regulated Members do one or more of the following:

- (a) Fabricate, duplicate, alter and repair prosthetic and orthodontic devices;
- (b) Fit those devices when fitting is incidental to the fabrication, duplication, alteration or repair;
- (c) Teach, manage and conduct research in the science, techniques and practice of dental technology;
and
- (d) Provide restricted activities authorized² by the Regulations.

1. PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE

The Regulated Member provides quality service that is responsive to the needs and expectations of Clients and/or Patients. The Regulated Member must:

- (a) Recognize that the needs and wellbeing of the Client and/or Patient are paramount;
- (b) Provide appropriate care to Clients and/or Patients and treat them with respect and do not exploit them for personal gain or advantage;
- (c) Establish appropriate boundaries with Patients to avoid real or perceived personal conflicts of interest or boundary issues.
- (d) Refrain from relationships of a sexual nature with Patients who are not spouses or interdependent partners as defined in these Standards of Practice.
- (e) Practice the profession of dental technology competently and professionally with Patients and/or Clients;
- (f) Practice within your competence and limitations and where necessary, refer to other Regulated Members or health care practitioners for additional opinions and services;
- (g) Support and provide for the advancement of the profession; and
- (h) Understand and adhere to the requirements of governing laws including the Health Professions Act, Dental Technologists Professions Regulation, Code of Ethics and these Standards of Practice

² The College grants authorization based on the training requirements outlined in the Dental Technologists Profession Regulation. Not all Dental Technologists/Technicians are authorized to perform all restricted activities in the Dental Technologists Profession Regulation.
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- (i) Apply current and adequate skill and knowledge in the fabrication, duplication, alteration and repair of prosthetic and orthodontic dental devices;
- (j) Consistently meet the requirements and needs of Clients and/or Patients, including dentists, denturists or other approved health care providers and members of the public;
- (k) Exhibit professionalism in practice by communicating effectively throughout the provision of services; and
- (l) Ensure quality and safety to Clients and/or Patients and the public by applying aseptic techniques and environmental controls to ensure an adequate hygienic environment including the understanding and implementation of universal precautions.³

2. RELATIONSHIPS WITH PATIENTS

The Regulated Member is required to maintain appropriate relationships with patients and/or clients. The Regulated Member must:

- (a) The Registered Dental Technologist/Technician may not enter into a close personal relationship or sexual relationship with a former patient until at least one-year (365 days) has passed since the last professional interaction occurred and the professional relationship has ended, and there is minimal risk of a continuing power imbalance as a result of the professional relationship between the Registered Dental Technologist /Technician and the patient.
 - I. A power imbalance occurs when a Registered Dental Technologist or Technician is in a position of authority and has professional obligations. Examples of a power imbalance include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Whether the patient has confided personal information to the Regulated Member beyond that which was necessary for the purposes of receiving professional services;
 - Whether the patient was emotionally dependent on the Regulated Member; and
 - Whether the patient is particularly vulnerable as a result of factors such as: age, gender identity, socioeconomic status, or as a result of a mental, intellectual or physical disability.
 - II. It is the responsibility of the Registered Dental Technologist of Technician to maintain ethics, demonstrate respect for and sensitivity to personal boundaries, and clarify the roles and goals in the relationship between the Registered Dental Technologist/Technician and the patient.

3. ACCOUNTABILITY

The Regulated Member is accountable and responsible for their own actions. The Regulated Member must:

³ Universal Precautions <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page6410.aspx>
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- (a) Be accountable and responsible for their own actions and behavior to the Client and/or Patient, to his/her colleagues and to the College;
- (b) Practice within the dental technology scope of practice, including only performing restricted activities for which the member has been authorized by the Regulation;
- (c) Support the ongoing development and growth of knowledge of the profession;
- (d) Limit their own activities to those they are competent to perform and appropriate to their scope of practice and know the parameters of any restricted activities as permitted by the Regulation; and
- (e) Where appropriate, apply the processes outlined in this Standards of Practice to ensure compliance by staff under their direction and control.

4. INFORMED PRACTICE

The Regulated Member is required to ensure adequate knowledge to ensure that they practice within the governing laws of the profession. The Regulated Member must:

- (a) Follow applicable legislation including the Health Professions Act, Dental Technologists Profession Regulation, this Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics and Bylaws;
- (b) Report to the Registrar as soon as reasonably possible if another College has found them guilty of unprofessional conduct, and provide a copy of that decision to the Registrar;
- (c) When the Regulated Member is a Regulated Member in a similar organization in another jurisdiction and are/were found guilty of unprofessional conduct, must as soon as reasonably possible, report that decision and provide a copy of the decision to the Registrar;
- (d) Report any finding of professional negligence made against the Regulated Member to the Registrar in writing as soon as reasonably possible after the finding is made;
- (e) Must report in writing to the Registrar as soon as reasonably possible, if they have been charged with an offense under the Criminal Code (Canada) or have been convicted of an offense under the Criminal Code (Canada);
- (f) If the Regulated Member is also an employer, notify the College as soon as reasonably possible when an employee is terminated, suspended or resigns where the employer forms the opinion that the Regulated Member has engaged in unprofessional conduct; and
- (g) Pursuant to relevant legislation protect the Clients and Patients right to privacy, autonomy, confidentiality and access to information.

5. CONTINUING COMPETENCE

The Regulated Member will engage in lifelong professional development to improve knowledge and enhance professional competence. The Regulated Member must:

- (a) complete and maintain any and all educational requirements designed to prevent and address sexual abuse and sexual misconduct including training on trauma informed practice and sexual violence;
- (b) Comply with continuing competence requirements established by the Health Professions Act and Regulation, document continuing competence activities and submit them to the Registrar as required;
- (c) Meet the requirements for and pay any fees for renewal of practice permits with the College;
- (d) Create and maintain accurate records of Client and/or Patient prescriptions, Client and/or Patient history and services rendered for a minimum of seven years, while maintaining confidentiality; and
- (e) Use ethical and appropriate accounting and billing practices.

5. RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZATION

The Dental Technologists Profession Regulation allows for Regulated Members to provide limited services directly to Patients. Regulated Members must:

- (a) Be granted authorization to perform restricted activities only after successfully completing required formal education and training;
- (b) Refuse to perform restricted activities not authorized to them by the Health Professions Act, the Regulation and the College;
- (c) Provide a dedicated space, respecting a Patient's right to privacy, which is clearly visible within which to provide care;
- (d) Make reasonable effort to provide care with at least one other individual present at the time the care is provided; and
- (e) Clearly articulate the proposed plan for the provision of care and whenever reasonably possible, receive written consent from the patient to provide care.

References

This Standard of Practice for the Profession of Dental Technologists

College of Dental Technologists of Alberta (2011) Standards of Practice and any Related Policies, Directives and Guidelines Edmonton, Alberta: CDTA and AH&W

College of Dental Technologists of Alberta (2011) Code of Ethics
Edmonton, Alberta: CDTA

Health Professions Act of Alberta (2000) as amended Government of Alberta

Dental Technologist Profession Regulation (2004) Government of Alberta: Alberta Regulation 243/2004 of the Health Professions Act

Resources
Standards of Practice for the Profession of Dental Technologists

Alberta Dental Association and College (2004) Standards of Practice Edmonton, Alberta

Alberta Dental Assistants of Alberta (2005) Standards of Practice Edmonton, Alberta

College of Alberta Denturists (2005) Standards of Practice Edmonton, Alberta

College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Alberta (2007) Standards of Practice Edmonton, Alberta