



College of  
Dental  
Technologists  
of Alberta

## **Advice to the Profession**

### **Informed Consent: Supporting Ethical and Collaborative Care**

**June 2025**

This Advice to the Profession has been developed to provide Regulated Members with additional support, information, and guidance to assist you in your practice.

These documents may be edited or updated for clarity at any time, please review this Advice to the Profession regularly to ensure that you are aware or the most recent information.

*Advice to the Profession is not a standard of practice and should not be interpreted or used as legal advice.*

## Informed Consent: Supporting Ethical and Collaborative Care

In October 2023, the CDTA Council approved a proposed *Standard of Practice* on **Informed Consent** for consultation under Section 133 of the *Health Professions Act*. Once finalized, this topic will be formally transitioned from the *Code of Ethics* to a stand-alone *Standard of Practice*.

This change directly aligns with CDTA's mission, which is to execute its responsibilities of protection of the public in a fair and transparent manner, while providing leadership and guidance to the members.

As we prepare for this change, we want to make sure that all impacted regulated members have an understanding of informed consent. Only regulated members with [restricted activities authorization](#) can provide direct patient care and therefore have the need to obtain informed consent.

### What is Informed Consent?

Informed consent is the act of receiving the patient's permission to proceed with a proposed service, following a process of decision-making that leads to an informed choice. Informed consent involves ongoing communication between the parties involved. In the case of a minor or others who do not have the capacity to provide informed consent, the agreement must come from a legal guardian or substitute decisionmaker legally authorized to act on behalf of a patient.

### Practice Expectations as a Code of Ethics

As mentioned, informed consent is currently outlined in the Code of Ethics. The [Code of Ethics](#) sets out the moral and ethical principles that are to guide

professional behavior. It addresses ethical, professional behavior in situations specific to dental technology.

It currently emphasizes the importance of informed consent and maintaining a collaborative relationship with patients, ensuring they are fully informed and can make autonomous decisions about their oral health care. It states that, ***“A Regulated Member must maintain Client (patient), autonomy, informed consent, treat Clients (patients) with dignity and respect and maintain Client confidentiality....”***

## **Practice Expectations as a Standard of Practice**

A Standards of Practice defines the minimum level of professional performance that regulated members are expected to demonstrate to ensure competent, safe and ethical practice. There will be more to come on practice expectations in the coming months.

## **Staying Informed**

We will keep you informed as the change gets closer. In the meantime, it remains the responsibility of all Registered Dental Technologists and Registered Dental Technicians to know and adhere to governing legislation including the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.

Here’s a summary of resources on the CDTA website to help you do this:

- [Regulatory Documents & Practice Resources](#): This page on the CDTA website includes information on all governing legislation and other documents relevant to your practice, including the Health Professions Act, Regulations, Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics and other guidelines.

# Advice to the Profession

- [Restricted activities authorization](#): This page on the CDTA website defines restricted activities and how to apply for restricted activities authorization.
- [AHS Consent to Treatment Plan or Procedure](#): This sample form is provided as a reference for registered dental technologists or technicians. It is intended to be **adapted to suit your specific practice needs**. Please ensure any modifications reflect your particular services and professional responsibilities.