College of Dental Technologists of Alberta

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Purpose

This standard of practice is intended to provide direction to regulated members of the College of Dental Technologists of Alberta. Regulated members must understand and work within their legislated scope of practice. This standard is intended to clarify the legislated scope of practice for dental technologists and dental technicians, as defined in the Health Professions Act (the "Act") *the Health Professions Restricted Activities Regulation (HPRAR), and the Dental Technologists Profession Regulation,* delineate the boundaries of their practice.

This document should be considered in conjunction with the *Act,* the *HPRAR,* the *Dental Technologists Profession Regulation, and the CDTA's other Standards, guidelines, and policies.*

Standard

Regulated Members have a responsibility to ensure that the dental prosthetic and orthodontic devices that are fabricated, duplicated, altered, or repaired, by them and under their supervision and/or delegation are safe and effective. Regulated members are responsible to understand and adhere to the *Act,* the *HPRAR*, the *Dental Technologists Profession Regulation*, CDTA's Bylaws, Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics, and any guidelines and/or policies of the CDTA.

Principles

At all times, the regulated member must self-evaluate and practice within their own level of competence and authorized scope of practice. The regulated member must:

a) Only provide professional services within the legislated scope of practice defined in the *Act*, the *HPRAR*, the *Regulation,* and authorized by the College.

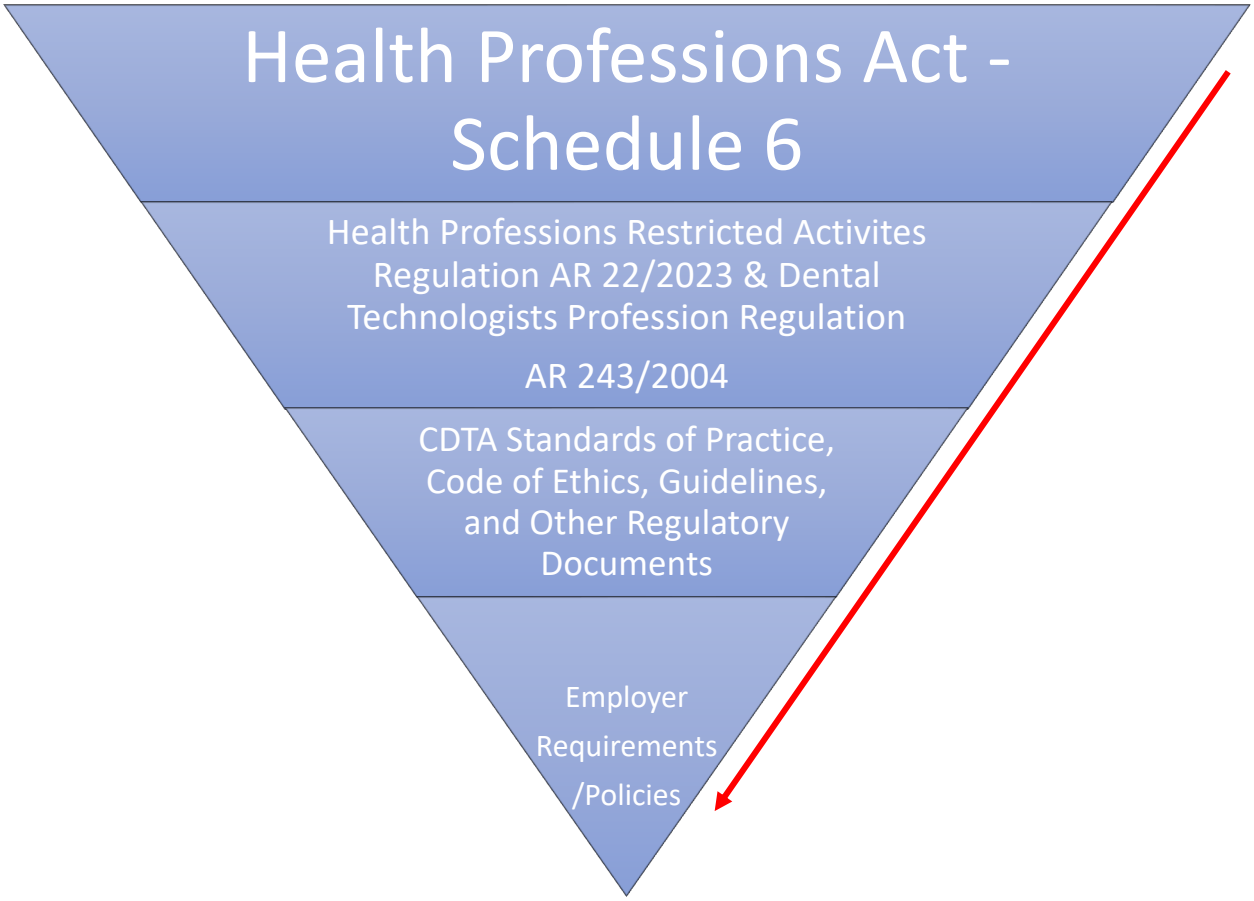
b) Only perform those activities and provide professional services that the regulated member has adequate knowledge and skill to perform and are within their competence and limitations.

c) Only provide professional services in alignment with the CDTA's *Standards of Practice* and other guidelines and/or policies of the CDTA.

Regulatory Framework Hierarchy

Figure 1 illustrates authorities that establish the scope of practice for registered dental technologists and registered dental technicians within the regulatory framework.[1]

Figure 1



Legislated Scope of Practice

The *Health Professions Act* (the "Act") regulates health professions in a manner that allows for non-exclusive, overlapping **scopes of practice.** Different health professions may engage in the same scope of practice. No single health profession has exclusive ownership of a specific **health service** or **restricted activity**.

The *Act* provides each profession with a legislated practice statement. The practice statement defines the scope of practice for the profession of dental technology and the

[1] Adapted from CRNA

professional services and activities that Registered Dental Technologists and Registered Dental Technicians are authorized to provide and perform.

The *Act* defines the practice statement for Registered Dental Technologists and Registered Dental Technicians as:

> ***3*** *In their practice, dental technologists 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*** *(fit) to the fabrication, duplication, alteration or repair,*
>
> *(b.1) teach, manage and conduct research in the science, techniques and practice of dental technology, and*
>
> *(b) provide restricted activities*[2] *authorized by the* ***regulations***[3]

Authorized Practice

(1) Regulated Members may undertake the following activities when trained, competent, and authorized by the College as they relate to the fabrication, duplication, alter and repair of dental prosthetic and orthodontic devices:

- Obtain impressions and fabricate **casts** under prescription.
- Fabricate a range of **custom-made** dental prosthetic and orthodontic devices that are fully functional, effective, safe, and aesthetically pleasing, using recognised fabrication techniques including digital technology (CAD/CAM), according to a **prescription** from an authorized **regulated health professional**.
- Duplicate custom-made dental prosthetic and orthodontic devices according to a prescription from a regulated health professional.
- Alter and repair dental prosthetic and orthodontic devices according to a prescription from a regulated health professional.
- Work collaboratively with a **dentist**, **denturist,** or other regulated health professional on treatment planning and design related to the fabrication, duplication, alteration, and repair of custom-made dental prosthetic and orthodontic devices.
- Perform restricted activities authorized by the *Health Professions Restricted Activities Regulation*, and the College, that they are trained, competent, and authorized by the College to perform.

[2] 2 RSA 2000 cH-7 Sched 6 s3;2008 c34 s22
[3] The College grants authorization based on formal education and training. Not all regulated members are authorized to perform all restricted activities in Regulation.

- Authorized regulated members who perform or supervise restricted activities must do so in alignment with the CDTA's *Restricted Activities Standards (2022)* and *Supervision of Restricted Activities Standards (2022).*

- Employ and delegate tasks to unregulated personnel, when employing the unregulated individual would not violate section 46 of the *Health Professions Act* regarding mandatory registration.

  When supervising or delegating tasks adhere to the CDTA's *Delegation and Supervision Standards (2023).*

(2) Under the written direction or supervision of an authorized regulated professional:

- take impressions and occlusal (bite) registrations by prescription.
- carry out intra-oral scanning for CAD/CAM.
- take intra and extra-oral photographs.

(3) Registered Dental Technologist and Registered Dental Technicians may provide limited services without a prescription. This includes:

- minor alterations or repairs to a removable dental prosthetic or orthodontic device and providing the altered or repaired dental prosthetic and orthodontic devices to the person who requested it, if:

  - the Registered Dental Technologist or Registered Dental Technician performing the alteration or repair is authorized by the *Health Professions Act,* the *Health Professions Restricted Activities Regulation, Dental Technologists Regulation*, and the College, and is trained and competent to perform the alteration or repair;
  - the Registered Dental Technologist or Registered Dental Technician performing the alteration or repair has access to the original prescription for the dental prosthetic and orthodontic device being altered or repaired;
  - the original design, fit, function, and/or prescription of the dental prosthetic and orthodontic device is not impacted by the alteration or repair; and
  - in all cases, where the design, fit, function, and/or prescription of the altered or repaired dental prosthetic and orthodontic devices are impacted a prescription must be obtained for the alteration or repair from the authorized Regulated Health Professional responsible for the final fit of the dental prosthetic and orthodontic devices. The final fit of all dental prosthetic and orthodontic devices must be performed by the prescribing regulated health professional.

- The Registered Dental Technologist or Registered Dental Technician must explain any limitation of the alteration or repair to the prescribing regulated health professional or patient.

Expectations

(1) Obtaining a Prescription and Patient Information

The regulated member must:

a) Be able to effectively obtain a prescription from an authorized regulated health professional and any other patient information that is relevant to the fabrication and delivery of prosthetic and orthodontic devices.

b) Create and maintain client, patient, and other records in alignment with the CDTA's *Documentation and Record Keeping Standards (2023)*.

(2) Analysing a Prescription and Patient Information

The regulated member must:

a) Be able to effectively analyze the prescription and other patient information required to fabricate, duplicate, alter, and repair, prosthetic or orthodontic devices, that are safe and effective for use, using appropriate materials.

b) Consult with the prescribing regulated health professional where clarity is required.

c) Ensure that any changes to the prescription and/or design are authorized by the prescribing regulated health professional and recorded legibly, in English, using clear understandable language.

(3) Sourcing of Materials and Components

Dental prosthetic and orthodontic devices may include significant custom-made sub-components. Regulated Members must source such components and other materials used in the fabrication, duplication, alteration, and repair of dental prosthetic and orthodontic devices in a manner that complies with Health Canada's requirements for Medical Devices. The regulated member must:

a) Select dental materials and fabrication techniques for use in the fabrication duplication, alteration, and repair of dental prosthetic and orthodontic devices that are appropriate for the application.
b) Ensure that the selected materials comply with the requested materials on the regulated health professional's prescription.
c) Ensure that any changes to the requested materials on the regulated health professional's prescription are authorized by the prescribing regulated health professional and recorded legibly, in English, using clear understandable language.
d) Ensure that the manufacturer's instructions for use (MIFU) are followed for materials and other components used in the fabrication of a device.
e) Ensure that the materials used are approved by Health Canada.

(4) Fabrication, Duplication, Alteration, and Repair

Regulated Members are autonomous regulated health professionals who are responsible for their own professional practice. Regulated members must:

a) Provide professional services in a manner that complies with their individual legislated scope of practice while adhering to the *Act,* the *HPRAR,* the *Dental Technologists Profession Regulation,* and CDTA's Bylaws, Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics, and any guidelines and/or policies of the CDTA.
b) Confirm that any orthodontic or prosthetic device which they have fabricated, duplicated, altered, or repaired adheres to the prescription.
c) Ensure that any changes to the prescription and/or design are authorized by the prescribing regulated health professional and recorded legibly, in English, using clear understandable language.
d) Take responsibility for the quality and safety of dental prosthetic and orthodontic devices which they have fabricated, duplicated, altered, or repaired.

(5) Restricted Activities

The Regulated Member may perform only those restricted activities that are authorized by the *Health Professions Act*, the *Health Profession Restricted Activity Regulation and are authorized by the College.*

Regulated members must adhere to the College *Restricted Activities Standards (2022), Supervision of Restricted Activities Standards (2022)*, and other guidelines and policies for the provision of restricted activities. All direct patient care (restricted activities) must be performed by an *authorized* regulated member and must occur in a dedicated patient care area which is subject to the clinical considerations listed in the Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines.

GLOSSARY

Act*:* means the *Health Professions Act,*

Alter/Alteration: Any changes made to an existing orthodontic or prosthetic device. The change must not be significant to the function of the device. Significant change means a change to the design or function of the device that could reasonably be expected to alter the overall function, safety, or effectiveness of the device.[4]

Cast: A replica of teeth and adjoining tissues created digitally or by a casting process (e.g. plaster into an impression.) Includes, dental casts, diagnostic casts, final casts, preliminary casts, refractory casts, remount casts. [5]

Client(s): a dentist, denturist, or other regulated health care professional who is authorized to prescribe an orthodontic or periodontal appliance, fixed or removable partial or complete denture or implant-supported prosthesis and who is primarily responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of a Patient. The client is responsible for the final fit of any prosthesis, device, or appliance.

Color matching: the act of selecting the shade that blends with the shade of the adjacent teeth and applying that selection in a manner that ensures accuracy, uniformity of the prosthetic device with the natural shade of a patient's existing teeth.

Competence: In relation to a person, means adequately qualified, suitably trained, and with sufficient experience to safely perform work without supervision or with only a minimal degree of supervision.

Custom-made: means any prosthetic or orthodontic device, other than a mass-produced medical device, that

[4] https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medical-devices/application-information/guidance-documents/guidance-document-interpretation-significant-change-medical-device.html
[5] https://www.theipd.org/

(a) is manufactured in accordance with a health care professional's written direction giving its design characteristics;

(b) is

(i) for the sole use of a particular patient of a professional, or

(ii) for use by that professional to meet special needs arising in the course of his or her practice. (*instrument fait sur mesure*) [6]

Dental Appliance: See "Orthodontic Device", "Prosthetic Device"

Dentist: means a person who is authorized under the Act to practise the regulated health profession of dentistry;

Denturist: means a person who is authorized under the Act to practise the regulated health profession of denturism;

Device: See "Orthodontic Device", "Prosthetic Device"

Duplicate/Duplication: to create a replica of an existing object.

Fabricate/Fabrication: the designing, building, making, or construction of a dental appliance device or prosthesis. Includes both analog and CAD/CAM design and building, making, and construction.

Incidental/Preliminary Fit: Fitting of the dental prosthesis, device, and/or appliance during the period of fabrication, in order to check and adjust its fit, function, and its aesthetic qualities. The **final** fit and delivery of any dental prostheses, device, and/or appliance is done by the prescribing health professional. [7]

Orthodontic Device: Any **custom-made** device or appliance that is prescribed by a regulated health professional and manufactured to provide a functional or therapeutic effect on dental conditions including bite problems and malocclusions.

Orthodontic Devices	Definition
Fixed Orthodontic	*active, passive; Functional*

[6] https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/sor-98-282/fulltext.html
[7] https://cadtr-acortd.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/national_essential_competencies_for_dental_technology_practice_in_canada-_final.pdf

Appliance [8]	any appliance or device, placed on a portion of, or the entire arch, bonded to the teeth, that applies force to the teeth and their supporting structures to produce changes in their relationships to each other and/or the related osseous structures and control their growth and/or development. [9]
Removable Orthodontic Appliance	*active, passive; Functional* any appliance or device, placed on a portion of, or the entire arch, that applies force to the teeth and their supporting structures to produce changes in their relationships to each other and/or the related osseous structures, and control their growth and/or development. and may be removed by the patient[10]
Fixed Periodontal Appliance [11]	*passive;* any appliance or device, placed on a portion of, or the entire arch, bonded to the teeth, that exerts no active pressure to the teeth or associated structures
Removable Periodontal Appliance	*passive;* any appliance or device, placed on a portion of, or the entire arch, that exert no active pressure to the teeth or associated structures, and may be removed by the patient.

Patient: an individual awaiting or receiving dental technology services and or treatment where the regulated member 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 regulated member has charged or received payment from the individual or a third party on behalf of the individual.
I. The regulated member 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 regulated member.

Preliminary fit: See: " Incidental Fit"

Prescription: means an authorization, issued by a person who is authorized under the Act and the HPRAR to prescribe a dental appliance, to fabricate, duplicate, alter, or repair a dental prosthetic or orthodontic device(appliance) for use by a named individual.

8 Section 2 Dental Technologists Profession Regulation AR 243/2004
9 https://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Orthodontic+appliance
10 https://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Orthodontic+appliance
11 Section 2 Dental Technologists Profession Regulation AR 243/2004

Prosthetic Device: Any **custom-made** device or appliance intended for the sole use of a particular patient that must be manufactured in accordance with a written prescription of a regulated health professional that replaces one or more missing teeth and/or, if required, associated structures or anatomy restoring, improving or altering form, function, and esthetics.[12]

This is a broad term that includes abutment crowns, abutment inlays/onlays, bridges, dentures, obturators, and gingival prostheses.[13]

Prosthetic Devices		
Competency	**Type**	**Definition**
Fixed Partial Prostheses[14]	Crown	an artificial replacement that restores missing tooth structure by surrounding part or all of the remaining structure with a material such as cast metal alloy, metal-ceramics, ceramics, resin, or a combination of materials; A restoration for a natural tooth, dental implant, and/or dental implant abutment. [15]
	Bridge	a permanent prosthetic replacement for one or more missing teeth cemented to the abutment of natural teeth or their implant replacements.
Removable Partial Protheses[16]	Removable Partial Denture	*tooth (implant) and tissue supported;* a prosthetic replacement of missing teeth, on a framework,

[12] https://www.thejpd.org/
[13] https://www.ada.org/publications/cdt/glossary-of-dental-clinical-terms
[14] Section 2 Dental Technologists Profession Regulation AR 243/2004
[15] https://www.thejpd.org/article/S0022-3913(16)30683-7/fulltext#secsectitle0105
[16] Section 2 Dental Technologists Profession Regulation AR 243/2004

		that can be removed by the patient
		cement-retained, screw-retained; an anchored prosthetic replacement of missing teeth, on a framework
Removable Full Prostheses[17]	Removable Complete Denture	*tissue-supported, tooth (implant), and tissue supported, implant-supported;* a dental prosthesis, supported by soft tissue, that replaces the natural teeth and associated structures in an edentulous arch and is not attached to or supported by natural teeth or implants and which is removable by the patient
		cement-retained, screw-retained; an anchored replacement of the natural teeth in the arch and their associated parts by artificial substitutes
Maxillofacial Prosthesis		
	Classification	
	Auricular	
	Cranial	
	Mandibular resection	
	Nasal	
	Obturator	
	Ocular	

17 Section 2 Dental Technologists Profession Regulation AR 243/2004

	Orbital
	Palatal augmentation/speech aid
	Palatal lift

Adapted from JPD Glossary of Prosthetic Terms

Rebase: Process of refitting a denture by replacing the base material.

Regulation: Dental Technologists Profession Regulation (AR 243/2004)[18]

Regulated health professional(s): a person registered with a professional health regulatory professional college, agency, and/or authority, in Alberta or any other jurisdiction.

Regulated member(s): a person who is granted registration as a member of the CDTA in accordance with the HPA and the Regulation;

This term includes a previously regulated member whose last day of registration with the College is within the immediately preceding two years.

Reline: Process of resurfacing the tissue side of a removable prosthesis with new base material.

Repair: restoration of a damaged orthodontic or prosthetic device. For the purposes of this standard, repair includes a rebase or reline. See Also: "Rebase", "Reline".

Restricted Activities: An activity named as a restricted activity in Part 0.1 of the Health Professions Act: Health Services Restricted Activities.

[18] https://www.qp.alberta.ca/1266.cfm?page=2004_243.cfm&leg_type=Regs&isbncln=9780779767304