

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Purpose

This standard of practice is intended to provide guidance to **regulated members** of the College of Dental Technologists of Alberta to 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 and delineate the boundaries of their practice.

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

Principles

- (1) At all times, the regulated member must self-evaluate and practice within their own level of competence and perform only those activities that the regulated member has adequate knowledge and skill to perform and are within the regulated member's scope and area of practice authorized by the College. The regulated member must:
 - a) Only provide professional services within the legislated scope of practice defined in the *Health Professions Act, the Dental Technologists Professions Regulation, the Health Professions Restricted Activity Regulation, and authorized by the College.*
 - b) Only provide professional services within their competence and limitations and College authorization.
 - c) Only provide professional services in alignment with the CDTA's *Standards of Practice.*

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 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 follows:

In their practice, dental technologists (dental technicians)¹ 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*
- (c) *provide restricted activities² authorized by the regulations³*

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.⁴

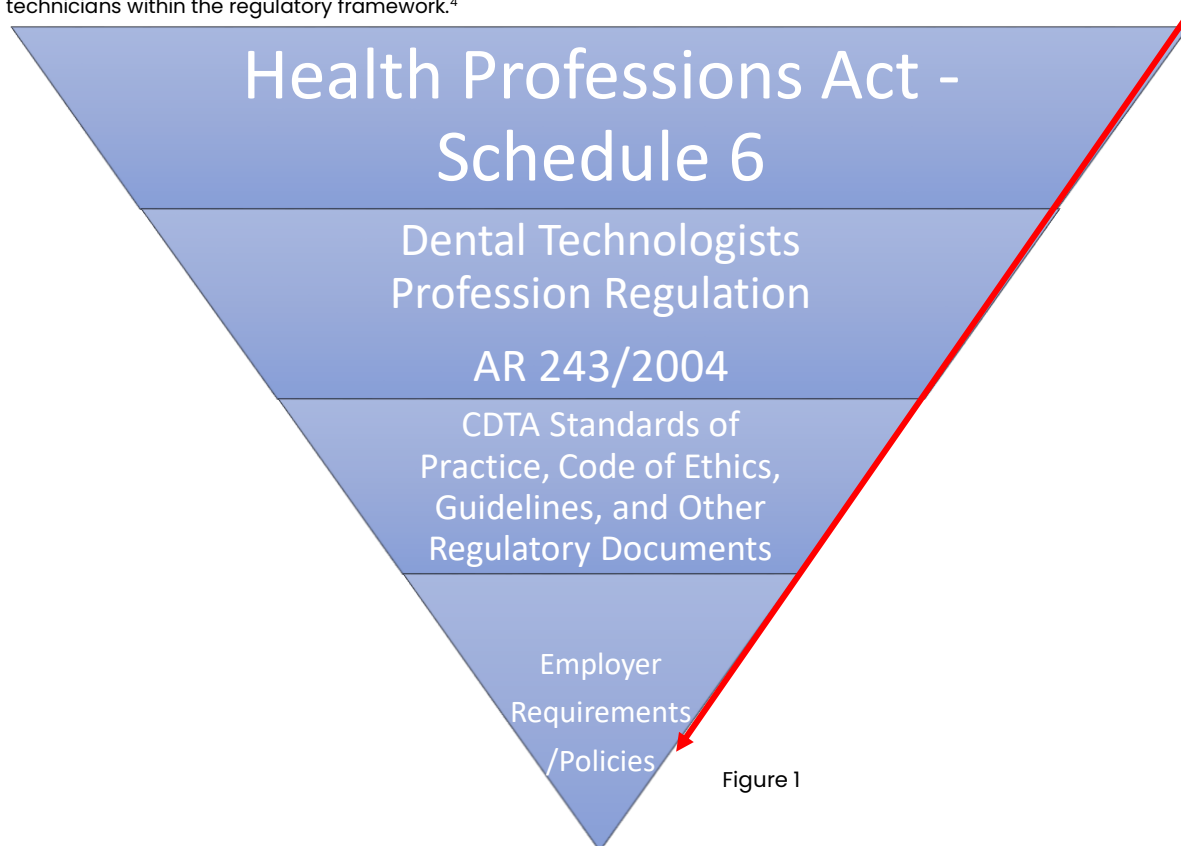


Figure 1

¹ [RSA 2000 cH-7 Sched 6 s3:2008 c34 s22](#)

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.

⁴ Adapted from CRNA

Expectations

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:
- Utilize impressions or digital files and fabricate **casts** under prescription.
 - Carry out extra-oral scanning of impressions.
 - Fabricate a range of **custom-made** dental prosthetics and orthodontic devices according to a **prescription** from a **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 professionals on treatment planning and design related to the fabrication, duplication, alteration, and repair of custom-made dental prosthetic and orthodontic devices.
 - Verify and take responsibility for the quality and safety of dental prosthetic and orthodontic devices which they have fabricated, duplicated, altered, or repaired.
 - Perform restricted activities authorized by the *Health Professions Act* and the *Health Professions Restricted Activity Regulation* that they are trained, competent, and authorized by the College to perform.
 - Authorized regulated members who perform or supervise restricted activities must do so in alignment with the CDTA's *Restricted Activities Standards (2023)* and *Supervision of Restricted Activities Standards (2023)*.
 - Supervise and delegate tasks to unregulated personnel, when doing so would not be in violation of 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)*.⁵
- (2) Under the direction of a dentist, denturist, or other authorized regulated professional:
- take impressions, carry out intra-oral scanning, and take occlusal (bite) registrations, by prescription.
 - take intra and extra-oral photographs.

⁵ Delegation and Supervision Standards pending approval

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.⁶

CAD/CAM: Computer-aided design/Computer-aided manufacturing.

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.⁷

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, and 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 device, that

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

(b) is:

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

(ii) for use by that regulated health professional to meet special needs arising in the course of their practice.

⁶ <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>

⁷ <https://www.theipd.org/>

Dental Appliance: See “Orthodontic Device”, “Prosthetic Device”

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

Denturist: means a person who is authorized under the Act to practise the designated 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.⁸

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

Orthodontic Devices	Definition
<p>Fixed Orthodontic Appliance⁹</p>	<p><i>active, passive; functional</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.¹⁰ any appliance or device, bonded/ cemented to teeth, which applies force to teeth and their supporting structures in order

⁸ https://cadr-acord.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/national_essential_competencies_for_dental_technology_practice_in_canada_final.pdf

⁹ Section 2 Dental Technologists Profession Regulation AR 243/2004

¹⁰ <https://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Orthodontic+appliance>

	to produce changes or maintain their relationship to one another
Removable Orthodontic Appliance	<p><i>active, passive; functional</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 patient¹¹ any appliance or device that applies force to teeth and their supporting structures or maintains their existing relationship to one another, which may be removed by the patient.
Fixed Periodontal Appliance ¹²	<p><i>passive;</i></p> <p>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</p>
Removable Periodontal Appliance	<p><i>passive;</i></p> <p>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.</p>

Preliminary fit: See: “ [Incidental Fit](#)”

Prescription: means an authorization, issued by a person who is authorized under the Act to prescribe a dental appliance, to make or alter a dental appliance for use by a named individual.

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 an authorized 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.¹³

This is a broad term which includes abutment crowns, abutment inlays/onlays, bridges, dentures, obturators, and gingival prostheses.¹⁴

¹¹ <https://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Orthodontic+appliance>

¹² Section 2 Dental Technologists Profession Regulation AR 243/2004.

¹³ <https://www.thejpd.org/>

¹⁴ <https://www.ada.org/publications/cdt/glossary-of-dental-clinical-terms>

Prosthetic Devices		
Competency	Type	Definition
Fixed Protheses¹⁵	Crown	an artificial replacement that restores missing tooth structure by surrounding part or all of the remaining structure with a material such as metal alloy, metal-ceramics, ceramics, resin, or a combination of materials; A restoration for a natural tooth, dental implant, and/or dental implant abutment. ¹⁶
	Bridge	a permanent prosthetic replacement for one or more missing teeth cemented to the abutment of natural teeth or their implant replacements.
Partial Protheses¹⁷	Removable Partial Denture	<i>tooth (implant) and tissue supported;</i>
		a prosthetic replacement of missing teeth, on a framework, that can be removed by the patient <i>cement-retained, screw-retained;</i> an anchored prosthetic replacement of missing teeth, on a framework
Full Protheses¹⁸	Complete Denture	<i>tissue-supported, implant-</i>

¹⁵ Section 2 Dental Technologists Profession Regulation AR 243/2004

¹⁶ [https://www.thejpd.org/article/S0022-3913\(16\)30683-7/fulltext#secsectitle0105](https://www.thejpd.org/article/S0022-3913(16)30683-7/fulltext#secsectitle0105)

¹⁷ Section 2 Dental Technologists Profession Regulation AR 243/2004

¹⁸ Section 2 Dental Technologists Profession Regulation AR 243/2004



STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

		<p><i>supported;</i></p> <p>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 and which is removable by the patient</p>
		<p><i>screw retained</i></p> <p>an anchored replacement of the natural teeth in the arch and their associated parts by artificial substitutes</p>
Maxillofacial Prosthesis		
	Classification	
	Auricular	
	Cranial	
	Mandibular resection	
	Nasal	
	Obturator	
	Ocular	
	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.

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

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*.