

Supervision of Students or Examination Candidates

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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES:		<i>Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, ss. 27-29</i> <i>Denturism Act, 1991, s. 4</i> <i>Denturism Act, 1991, Professional Misconduct Regulation, O. Reg. 854/93, s. 1 (3)</i> CDO By-laws, art. 33.08(xiii)
COLLEGE CONTACT:		Registrar

Purpose of this Policy:

The College recognizes the value of practical learning and encourages its members to supervise and educate students. The purpose of this policy is to set out the expectations for denturists involved in the supervision of students.

In this policy, a student is defined as a person who is fulfilling the requirements to become a registered denturist and may include students enrolled in recognized denturism programs, recent graduates and international candidates.

Expectations for Denturists in the Supervision of Students:

1. The denturist is fully responsible for all aspects of patient care provided by a student while under the denturist's direct or indirect supervision.¹
2. The denturist will obtain the patient's informed consent before involving a student in that patient's care.
3. The denturist will educate the student about the confidentiality of personal health information and will ensure that the student does not inappropriately collect, use or disclose patients' personal health information.
4. The denturist will evaluate the student's knowledge, skills and judgment before involving the student in patient care and the denturist will ensure that the student's knowledge, skills and judgment are appropriate for the tasks assigned and that the student can perform all acts (including controlled acts) safely.

¹ Direct supervision is considered supervision where the denturist is physically present with the student while the student performs a task. Indirect supervision is considered supervision where the student performs tasks at the denturist's direction, but the denturist is not physically present in the same room.

5. The dentist will ensure that the student only performs tasks that are within the scope of practice of the profession or are in the public domain.
6. The dentist will provide an appropriate level of supervision (i.e., direct or indirect supervision) based on the student's knowledge, skills and judgment and the nature of the task.
7. The dentist will only delegate the controlled act of fitting and dispensing removable dentures to a student in the following circumstances:
 - a. the student is attending a course of study leading to a diploma or degree in denturism at an institution recognized by the Registration Committee *or* is a candidate who is eligible to participate in entry-to-practice examinations and whose application for a certificate of registration has not been finally refused by the Registration Committee; and
 - b. the dentist has the authority to perform the controlled act and is competent to perform the controlled act; and
 - c. the dentist has determined that it would be appropriate in the circumstances to perform the controlled act on the patient; and
 - d. the dentist directly supervises the student in the performance of the act until the dentist determines that the student is competent to perform the act safely under indirect supervision. Where the dentist indirectly supervises the student, the dentist must remain on the premises at all times and be available to assist with the act if necessary.
8. The dentist will ensure that all record keeping meets the standards of the profession, as set out in the College's Patient Record Keeping Policy. In particular, the dentist will ensure that all patient health records completed by the student include the student's name and status and are co-signed by the supervising dentist.
9. The dentist will continue to evaluate the student's knowledge, skills and judgment throughout the period of supervision.
10. The dentist will terminate the student's involvement in patient care if the dentist determines that it is necessary to do so for the protection of the public or if the patient withdraws his or her consent for student involvement.

Relevant Legislative Framework:

The *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* ("RHPA") limits the performance of certain controlled health care acts to registered members or to persons who have had the act delegated to them by a registered

member (RHPA, s. 27). The RHPA provides an exception for students, however, if that only applies if the student is performing the procedure as a part of their training (which is not the case in the circumstances covered by this policy) and they are acting under the supervision or direction of a registered member (RHPA, s. 29(1)(b)).

Registered denturists are authorized under the *Denturism Act, 1991* to perform the controlled act of fitting and dispensing removable dentures (*Denturism Act, s. 4*). The Professional Misconduct Regulation made under the *Denturism Act* limits the persons to whom a denturist may delegate the controlled act (O. Reg. 854/93, s. 1(3)). Accordingly, a denturist may only delegate the controlled act to:

- i. a student attending a course of study leading to a diploma or degree in denturism at an institution recognized by the Registration Committee, or
- ii. a candidate who is eligible to participate in entry-to-practice examinations, and whose application for a certificate of registration has not been finally refused by the Registration Committee.

Under the College's By-laws, a member must notify the College of the names of any graduates of denturist training that the member supervises as part of his or her practice (art. 33.08(xiii)).