

NIGHTGUARDS/BRUXISM GUARDS POLICY

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| LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES: | | Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991: Denturism Act, |
| COLLEGE CONTACT: | | Quality Assurance |

CDO Position

- 1. Providing and fitting of nightguards/bruxism guards does not fall within the current scope of practice or authorized act for Denturists in Ontario.**
- 2. Denturists in Ontario who provide or fit these devices to their clients are acting outside the permitted scope of practice and the authorized act for denturism in Ontario.**

RATIONALE

Scope of Practice

The current scope of practice for denturists in Ontario is defined in the *Denturism Act* as:

"The practice of denturism is the assessment of arches missing some or all teeth and the design, construction, repair, alteration, ordering and fitting of removable dentures"

Accordingly, fabricating/dispensing/providing night guards or bruxism guards does not fall within the current scope of practice for denturists in Ontario.

Controlled/Authorized Acts

The sole controlled act authorized to denturists in Ontario is defined in the *Denturist Act* as:

"In the course of engaging in the practice of denturism, a member is authorized, subject to the terms, conditions and limitations imposed on his or her certificate of registration, to fit and dispense removable dentures"

The current authorized act does not include the fitting or dispensing of devices other than removable dentures.

A controlled act does exist in the RHPA that would, in the College's opinion appear to include these products (which are used inside the mouth to protect teeth from abnormal functioning). This is in accordance with the following controlled act in Ontario:

"Fitting or dispensing a dental prosthesis, orthodontic or periodontal appliance or a device used inside the mouth to protect teeth from abnormal functioning"

Night guards and bruxism guards protect the teeth from abnormal functioning and it is clear that denturists in Ontario are not authorized to perform this controlled act.

Conclusion

The College's position, consistent with that previously taken, is that fitting or dispensing night guards/bruxism guards is a controlled act that is not currently authorized to denturists in Ontario. Accordingly, denturists who fit or dispensed these devices are acting outside the permitted scope and controlled act authorized to denturists in Ontario.