



A NATIONAL COMPETENCY PROFILE FOR DENTURISTS

Prepared by



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Denturists are primary healthcare providers who fabricate, fit, and maintain a wide variety of dental prostheses and oral devices. The practice of denturism is regulated in all Canadian jurisdictions.

In 2012, the College of Denturists of Ontario, the College of Alberta Denturists, and the College of Denturists of British Columbia jointly sponsored a project to develop a national competency profile for the profession. A national competency profile has many benefits, as it can:

- permit a broader understanding of the profession across Canada
- support provincial registrars in their regulatory functions such as entry to practice registration/licensing requirements
- serve as a basis for developing standards of practice
- provide a foundation for quality assurance and remediation requirements
- describe the expected outputs from educational programs

The project sponsors engaged the services of Professional Examination Service (ProExam) to facilitate development of the denturist competency profile. ProExam is a not-for-profit organization with a 70-year history in professional credentialing.

A call for volunteers was distributed to provincial professional associations and regulatory bodies, the national professional association, and educational programs from across the country. From the nominee pool, a 14-member working group was appointed¹. The working group represented a balance of the educator, practitioner, regulator, and provincial and national professional association perspectives on the practice of denturism.

The working group created an initial draft of the national competency profile, drawing upon their own subject-matter expertise as well as existing literature from educational institutions, professional associations, and regulatory bodies regarding the professional competencies of denturists. Feedback on an interim draft of the document was solicited via focus panels conducted with representatives of the regulatory community, the educational community, and the practitioner community.

A validation survey was conducted to collect information from members of the profession regarding the elements of the competency profile. Ratings scales were designed to elicit information on the frequency with which the individual competency elements were practiced by denturists, and on the potential severity of consequences if a denturist failed to perform

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the competency element appropriately. A total of 194 denturists completed the survey. After reviewing the survey data, the working group judged that the competency profile was complete and representative of the profession.

The competency profile is structured around six major competency areas, which are defined below. Within each competency area, observable performance elements are described.

Competency Areas and their Definitions
Clinical Practice – Denturists as primary healthcare providers use their knowledge and skills to meet patients' needs related to denturist services.
Laboratory Procedures – Denturists design, fabricate, and maintain a wide variety of dental prostheses and/or oral devices.
Professional Collaboration – Denturists work in collaboration with other healthcare professionals to optimize patient treatment and improve health outcomes.
Practice Management – Denturists apply knowledge, principles, and the skills of management with the goal of providing effective and efficient denturist services.
Jurisprudence, Ethics and Professional Responsibilities – Denturists practice within legal requirements and demonstrate professional behaviour that is ethical, supersedes self-interest, strives for excellence, is committed to continued professional development, and is accountable to individual patients, society, and the profession
Communication – Denturists communicate with patients, colleagues, and other healthcare professionals, to promote and support optimal patient care and well-being.

The competency elements within each of these areas appear on the following pages. The statements are written broadly, in order to be inclusive of current permitted acts in the different jurisdictions as well as anticipated future competency requirements.

Some competency elements (for example, radiography, tooth whitening, and anti-snoring and anti-bruxism devices) are not currently performed in all provinces; however, each competency element is currently within the scope of practice in at least one jurisdiction.

NATIONAL COMPETENCY PROFILE FOR DENTURISTS

Competency Area 1: Clinical Practice

Definition: Denturists as primary healthcare providers use their knowledge and skills to meet patients' needs related to denturist services.

Competency Elements

- 1.1. Develop a professional relationship with the patient.
 - 1.1.1. Elicit the patient's needs and expectations regarding dental services.
 - 1.1.2. Demonstrate a respectful and professional attitude.
 - 1.1.3. Identify the patient's physical and psychosocial concerns as they relate to treatment.
- 1.2. Gather and document patient information.
 - 1.2.1. Obtain a patient's personal information and medical and dental history.
 - 1.2.2. Perform intraoral and extraoral examinations.
 - 1.2.3. Perform diagnostic/screening tests.
- 1.3. Apply knowledge to assess and interpret patient's needs and requirements.
 - 1.3.1. Recognize the relationship between general and oral health.
 - 1.3.2. Apply foundational knowledge in biomedical, behavioural, and dental sciences.
 - 1.3.3. Order and/or take and interpret radiographs.
 - 1.3.4. Assess existing prosthesis.
 - 1.3.5. Consider physical and psychosocial factors that may affect the provision of denturist services.
 - 1.3.6. Determine and communicate the findings of assessments/examinations.
- 1.4. Develop treatment plans.
 - 1.4.1. Determine treatment options appropriate to patient's oral and general health status and needs.
 - 1.4.2. Describe and communicate treatment options and prognoses to the patient so as to enable the patient to make informed decisions.
- 1.5. Perform and manage clinical procedures including but not limited to the provision of removable prostheses and fixed and removable implant prostheses:
 - 1.5.1. Tissue treatments
 - 1.5.2. Impression taking techniques
 - 1.5.3. Prosthetic modifications
 - 1.5.4. Maxillary and mandibular registrations
 - 1.5.5. Try in of prostheses and/or oral devices
 - 1.5.6. Insertion of prostheses and/or oral devices

- 1.5.7. Adjustments/recalls/follow-up care
- 1.5.8. Tooth whitening procedures
- 1.6. Provide patient education regarding use, care and maintenance of provided dental prostheses and oral devices, and related oral healthcare.
- 1.7. Perform continued patient care for provided denturist services.
 - 1.7.1. Recognize indicators of problems related to dental prostheses and oral devices and related oral tissues and structures.
 - 1.7.2. Solve identified problems related to dental prostheses and oral devices.
- 1.8. Maintain certification as required in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, first aid, and management of medical emergencies.
- 1.9. Maintain accurate and complete patient records in a confidential manner.

Competency Area 2: Laboratory Procedures

Denturists design, fabricate, and maintain a wide variety of dental prostheses and/or oral devices.

Competency Elements

- 2.1 Apply knowledge and skills in designing and fabricating:
 - 2.1.1 Complete dentures.
 - 2.1.2 Partial dentures.
 - 2.1.3 Overdentures.
 - 2.1.4 Immediate/surgical dentures.
 - 2.1.5 Diagnostic splints.
 - 2.1.6 Surgical and radiographic stents.
 - 2.1.7 Implant supported/retained dentures.
 - 2.1.8 Implant supported/retained crowns/bridges.
 - 2.1.9 Mouthguards.
 - 2.1.10 Bruxism devices.
 - 2.1.11 Anti-snoring devices.
 - 2.1.12 Other devices related to the practice of denturism.
- 2.2 Modify dental prostheses and oral devices as needed by:
 - 2.2.1 Adjusting.
 - 2.2.2 Altering existing prostheses.
 - 2.2.3 Laboratory and clinical remounting.
 - 2.2.4 Relining.
 - 2.2.5 Rebasing.
 - 2.2.6 Repairing.
 - 2.2.7 Resetting.

Competency Area 3: Professional Collaboration

Denturists work in collaboration with other healthcare professionals to optimize patient treatment and improve health outcomes.

Competency Elements

- 3.1 Collaborate with other members of the dental team and other healthcare professionals to provide and receive information related to patient care.
- 3.2 Refer patients to other healthcare providers for necessary services and prepare related documentation.

Competency Area 4: Practice Management

Denturists apply knowledge, principles, and the skills of management with the goal of providing effective and efficient denturist services.

Competency Elements

- 4.1 Apply basic principles of practice administration, and financial and personnel management, to the practice of denturism.
- 4.2 Adhere to federal, provincial/territorial and municipal laws and regulations applicable to the practice.

Competency Area 5: Jurisprudence, Ethics and Professional Responsibilities

Denturists practice within legal requirements and demonstrate professional behaviour that is ethical, supersedes self-interest, strives for excellence, is committed to continued professional development, and is accountable to individual patients, society, and the profession.

Competency Elements

- 5.1 Adhere to legislation and regulations, including Federal, Provincial/Territorial and Municipal, related to:
 - 5.1.1 health and safety
 - 5.1.2 infection prevention and control
 - 5.1.3 patient records and data protection
 - 5.1.4 patient rights
 - 5.1.5 staff rights

- 5.2 Obtain informed consent including the patient's acceptance of the treatment plan and any modifications to treatment.
- 5.3 Adhere to Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics in accordance with provincial regulations and continuing professional development requirements.
- 5.4 Engage in lifelong learning and support denturist education.

Competency Area 6: Communication

Denturists communicate with patients, colleagues, and other healthcare professionals, to promote and support optimal patient care and well-being.

Competency Elements

- 6.1 Demonstrate effective oral communication skills.
- 6.2 Demonstrate effective written communication skills.
- 6.3 Use effective interpersonal skills.
- 6.4 Adapt communication to meet the needs of the audience.