



Mandatory suspension of all non-essential denturist services

March 17, 2020

Effective immediately there is a mandatory suspension of all non-essential denturist services. This suspension is effective immediately, not at end of business today.

Denturists may continue to provide essential services to patients. The decision about whether denturist services are considered essential will be a collaborative decision between the patient (or patient representative) and the denturist with appropriate risk factors taken into consideration. If appropriate, please collaborate with other healthcare professionals as to the best avenue for patient care. It is appropriate to provide needed care that if left untreated becomes a more significant burden on our healthcare resources and significantly compromises patient health.

In deciding to proceed with an essential service, before treatment is provided, a denturist must conduct a risk assessment that includes risk to the patient, the healthcare practitioner and the greater community. Denturists are responsible to mitigate the risk of potential exposure of COVID-19 to all involved, especially since many denturist patients fall into the most vulnerable patient groups who are most susceptible to COVID-19 infection and experience the most dire COVID-19 related disease.

If risks are identified that cannot be immediately or sufficiently mitigated, the determined care must be postponed or referred to an appropriate provider.

Care provided must be compliant with existing Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Standards and applicable legislation or the treatment must not be provided. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for all healthcare practitioners must be available before treatment can be initiated. Care must be provided with stringent infection prevention and control practices at the forefront of your mind. Resources are available on the [Alberta Health website](#) and from [Alberta Health Services](#).

For those who are in self-isolation due to

- i. attendance at the Pacific Dental Conference,
- ii. are symptomatic, or
- iii. for other personal reasons, such as recent travel outside of Canada,

please remember that you must not practice at all, regardless of the nature of the patient considerations. Providing care while under this directive may be grounds for a complaint and suspension of your practice permit. Please refer emergent cases to a denturist who is not currently isolated. Please coordinate this possibility with your colleagues.

The College will revisit this directive on April 7, 2020 or earlier as deemed necessary.

For the most up-to-date information, visit: alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx.

During this time, the College remains open for business. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dacia (drichmond@abdenturists.ca) or Lloyd (lfischer@abdenturists.ca).