



Patient Assessment Guidelines

COVID-19 Pandemic

The College of Alberta Denturists is providing the following information for members to use as a resource in addition to appropriate clinical judgment on making decisions when providing essential treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council has determined that essential care includes only those activities in which complications have arisen from a denture that cannot be removed by the patient themselves. At this time, no adjustments or repairs are permitted. Additionally, the College is not liable for any risk you take as a denturist to perform any essential services.

Appropriate clinical judgement during this time period will allow denturists to care for patients and alleviate the burden that would otherwise be placed on hospital emergency departments – keeping in mind again that adjustments and repairs are not considered essential services at this time.

In the interest of the health and safety of both patients and providers, the following guidelines are provided:

Pre-Screening via Telephone

All patients who request treatment due to an emergency and fall within Council's guidelines for essential services, must be pre-screened via telephone to protect you, your staff and others from possible virus transmission.

Scripting for initial phone contact with patients

- ☞ “Hello [patient name], I’m calling you to let you know that all non-essential services must be rescheduled – which includes your appointment for [insert service].
- ☞ Reschedule or make follow-up arrangements

If the denturist deems that the reason for a visit is essential, as per Council Guidelines, please proceed with:

- ☞ “With the concerns about COVID-19, we’d like to take every precaution to protect the health of our patients and staff. I am going to ask you a few questions:
 - Do you currently have a fever?
 - Do you currently have a cough?
 - Do you currently have difficulty breathing?
 - In the last 14 days, have you traveled outside of Canada?
 - In the last 14 days, have you come into contact with someone who was suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19?
 - In the last 14 days, have you come into contact with someone who was unwell or ill (in any capacity)?



- ☒ If they answer “yes” to any of the above:
 - “Given that you have responded “yes” to our screening questions, we ask that you please stay home and call Health Link 811. Please call us at a later date to reschedule your appointment.”

The College encourages denturists to consult independent legal advice on consent forms and waivers that you may be considering implementing.

Assessment for Office/Clinic Staff and Patients

Each office/clinic staff member must self-assess their health before each workday. If they respond “yes” to any of the factors below, they must not attend to the clinic. Have they experienced *any* of the following?

COVID-19 Symptoms

- ☒ fever > 38C
- ☒ cough
- ☒ sore throat
- ☒ shortness of breath
- ☒ flu-like symptoms

COVID-19 Risk Factors

- ☒ close personal contact (w/o PPE¹) with a suspected or lab-confirmed COVID-19 patient within the past two weeks
- ☒ travel outside of Canada in the past two weeks
- ☒ close personal contact with anyone who has been unwell in the last 14 days

Denturists are advised keep records for each day of all assessments performed on staff and patients for future reference.

Confirmation of Symptoms and/or Risk Factors

If any staff member responds “yes” to any of the above factors, they must not attend to the clinic or place of business.

If a patient responds “yes” to any of the above factors, it is strongly advised that the denturist wait until the symptoms have resolved prior to starting any essential services. If it is in the opinion of the denturist that this care cannot wait, the denturist must ensure that appropriate infection prevention and control measures, including adequate PPE be utilized. The College is working with Alberta Health to determine the appropriate level of recommended PPE that is required.

Please know that the Alberta Dental Association and College is advising that patients with any symptoms or risk factors should not be treated in a regular dental operatory.

¹ Personal protective equipment



No Symptoms or Risk Factors

If, after appropriate telephone screening a patient responds “no” to **all** of the above factors, and they are eligible to receive essential care, the denturist may, if they deem the patient to require essential care as per Council’s directive, proceed with appropriate IPC and PPE in place. Please ensure you that you exercise extreme measures during this pandemic. Information will be provided to members as it becomes available to the College.

Please take considerable precautions in providing essential care including:

- only having one patient in the clinic at a time
- limiting your patient contact as much as possible and having consultation and conversation with the patient, that would be part of the appointment, over the phone.

Should you be seeing patients for essential services, please ensure that all patient records are complete, signed, dated and placed in the patient’s chart, including any assessments done.