

Lifting of mandatory suspension of non-essential denturist services

May 6, 2020

Effective May 11, 2020 the mandatory suspension of all non-essential denturist services in Alberta is lifted.

On March 17, 2020, in response to an increasing risk associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, College Council made the difficult, yet responsible, decision to suspend the provision of non-essential services by denturists in Alberta. Further clarification as to the definition of essential and non-essential services followed on March 18, 2020.

In response to the Alberta Relaunch strategy announced on April 30, 2020 by the Government of Alberta, and the subsequent amendment to Chief Medical Officer of Health Order 07-2020 of March 27, 2020, regulated health professionals may have returned to the provision of non-essential services no earlier than May 4, 2020. This return-to-practice is contingent on the provision of Guidelines from the respective regulatory Colleges to their regulated members to ensure a safe and responsible return-to-practice.

It is noted that this return-to-practice is now permissible, not because society is safer and the risk of transmission of COVID-19 is lower; but, rather because there is now capacity to manage the influx of serious cases of COVID-19 infection in the province's intensive care units.

The College has mandated a phased approach to return to practice with planned dates and timelines subject to immediate change and contingent on the public health situation as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Denturists are advised to triage their patients, for priority of care, at this time. It is prudent to continue to limit in-person contact as much as possible and only proceed with those cases which need immediate attention. All public health orders remain in effect and must be followed. Denturists must use their sound and reasonable professional judgement in whether to proceed with the in-person care of a patient.

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