



Code of Ethics

PREAMBLE:

The practice of Denturism is a relationship between the Denturist, the Patient and Society in which the Denturist treats Patients to improve and maintain their oral health. The Denturist acknowledges the inherent need for collaboration between the Denturist, the Patient and other Professionals where appropriate to obtain and maintain optimum oral health.

The Code of Ethics defines acceptable behavior, promotes professional standards and educates the Public about the profession's aspirations, ethical values and standards. Additionally, it also provides the benchmark for members to use for self evaluation. Members of the College must adhere to the Code of Ethics in relationships with the Public, Patients, Colleagues, and with individuals of other Professions.

An Ethical Denturist will abide by:

The Fundamental Ethics

1. Have as their first consideration, the well-being of their patients above their own.
2. Ensure that their conduct is professional and that they will not take physical, emotional or financial advantage of their Patients.
3. Practice the profession in a safe, aseptic and professional environment.
4. Recognize their authority to provide restricted activities and work within their competencies and abilities and where appropriate, refer to other Denturists and other health care providers for additional services.
5. Practice the profession competently and without impairment.
6. Understand and adhere to the requirements of the Health Professions Act, the Denturists Profession Regulation, the College of Alberta Denturists By-laws, Standards of Practice and these Codes of Ethics.
7. Uphold the honor and dignity of the profession by maintaining integrity and ethical behavior.
8. Not allow for any interference or third party influence which may adversely affect their professional judgment and integrity.

The Responsibilities to Patients

9. Inform Patients of reasonable alternative treatments that may be available to them in order for them to make an informed decision on their treatment.
10. Charge fair and reasonable fees to Patients which are reflective of the treatment(s) provided, and with consideration of the College of Alberta Denturists Recommend Schedule of Professional Fees.
11. Recognize the Patient's right to seek a second opinion.
12. Ensure that the Patient's right to the confidentiality of their medical, dental and personal information is kept confidential, except as required by law.
13. In the course of providing treatment, disclose any conflicts of interest or personal values which may affect the treatment of the patient.
14. Take all reasonable steps to prevent any injury or harm to patients. When injury or harm has occurred, fully disclose it to the patient.
15. Not abandon their Patients or refuse to render or provide for the emergency care of their Patients.
16. When dealing with another Denturist's Patient in an emergency situation, attend to that emergency only and then refer the Patient back to the original Denturist, who, with patient consent, should subsequently be informed of the conditions found and the treatment given.

The General Responsibilities

17. Not accept any unethical or inappropriate financial or other benefit, either directly or indirectly, from any person or entity for the referral of a patient.
18. Maintain the Continuing Competency requirements of the Health Professions Act, the Denturist Profession Regulation and the College's Continuing Competency rules, and engage in life-long learning to maintain and improve abilities and knowledge, and develop new competencies with any changes and developments which affect the profession.
19. Share the knowledge of their discoveries and research to all on a reasonable basis when these discoveries are useful in safeguarding or promoting the health of the public.
20. Not hold out to the public as exclusive any agent, method or technique employed by them.
21. Maintain the honor and dignity of the profession when promoting themselves in the public media.
22. Keep accurate records of all clinical findings, diagnosis, treatments, prognosis and referrals.

23. Where appropriate, inform the College when a physical or mental condition has affected, or may affect over time, their ability or another Member's ability to practice safely or competently, and further, where appropriate, inform the appropriate College when another health professional's ability to practice safely or competently is affected.
24. Where appropriate and with reasonable grounds, inform the College when another Member has provided unethical or unskilled practice, and further, where appropriate, inform the appropriate College when another health professional has provided unethical or unskilled practice.
25. Provide opinions regarding the work of other Practitioners only if they have full knowledge of the case history and records of the Patient and only in a professional manner.
26. Respect the rights, dignity and diversity of all people.
27. Faithfully adhere to the College of Alberta Denturists Code of Ethics Principles Document which forms part of this Code of Ethics.

The Responsibilities to the Profession

28. Recognize and understand that it is a privilege not a right to have self-regulation of the profession, and that every Denturist has the ongoing responsibility to warrant such a privilege.
29. Recognize and abide by the authority provided to the Regulatory Body, the College of Alberta Denturists.
30. Where appropriate, support the advancement of the profession through local, provincial and national associations and organizations.

The Personal Responsibilities

31. Obtain help from Colleagues and other health professionals, for personal issues and problems which may affect the ability to provide safe, efficient and competent Denturist services.
32. Maintain and promote one's own health and wellness.

These Codes of Ethics were approved by Council on May 06, 2005.