

Expectations for clinical and ethical practice

Interpretation Guidelines: Orthodontic/Prosthodontic Services

Applies to Dental Hygienists

There are three main ways that the BC College of Oral Health Professionals protects the public:



The British Columbia College of Oral Health Professionals (BCCOHP) was created on September 1, 2022 through the amalgamation of four health regulatory colleges: the College of Dental Hygienists of BC, the College of Dental Surgeons of BC, the College of Dental Technicians of BC, and the College of Denturists of BC. All current requirements for standards of clinical and ethical practice issued by the four colleges remain in place upon amalgamation. This document was created by the College of Dental Hygienists of British Columbia and will be updated to reflect the amalgamation.

Orthodontic/Prosthodontic Services

May 5, 2020 Update: The CDHBC Interpretation Guidelines are under review. The content of these guidelines remains in place at this time; however, they need to be applied in the context of the new Dental Hygienists Regulation and CDHBC Bylaws. Readers are welcome to contact the CDHBC office if they have questions about the application of these guidelines in the interim time.

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines on the provision of orthodontic and prosthodontic services by dental hygienists.

BACKGROUND

As stated in the Clinical Therapy section of the [Scope of Practice Statement](#), the dental hygienist may place and remove temporary restorations and perform "orthodontic procedures", provided that appropriate education has been obtained.

"Appropriate education" has been defined as "acquisition of the knowledge and skills required to provide specific dental hygiene services at an entry-level standard of competence."

At the February 2001 Board meeting, the Board resolved that formal education is considered the appropriate education for dental hygienists providing orthodontic and prosthodontic services.

The Dental Hygienists Regulation does not require supervision for the provision of prosthodontic or orthodontic services. However, because the dental hygiene scope of practice does not include orthodontic or prosthodontic diagnostic-level decision making, most services will be provided in collaboration with a dentist.

POLICY

The diagnosis and treatment related to orthodontic conditions is a restricted activity for dentists that does not fall within the dental hygiene scope of practice. Therefore, collaboration with a dentist is required when performing orthodontic procedures. As such, directions for orthodontic procedures must come to the dental hygienist after the dentist completes his/her diagnosis and treatment plan.

With regard to prosthodontic services, dental hygienists are allowed to place and remove temporary restorations and crowns utilizing temporary cements. Supervision is not required for

these procedures. However, dental hygienists should work in collaboration with the dentist when possible to align care with the dentist's diagnosis and treatment plan.

Dental hygienists providing orthodontic and prosthodontic services will have obtained education in their basic dental hygiene program or through a post-diploma formal education course.

REFERENCE

- [Scope of Practice Statement](#). Victoria: College of Dental Hygienists of British Columbia; 2013.

Added to Handbook: Prior to June 2004

Updated: September 2013