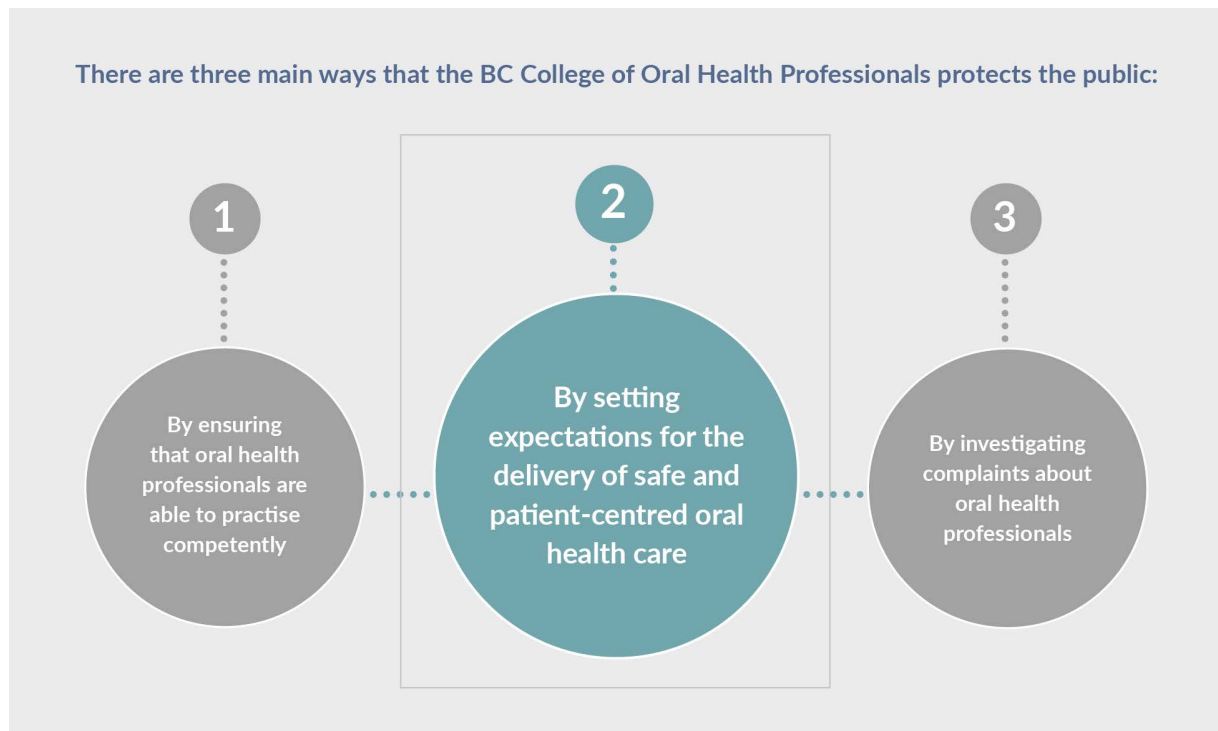


Expectations for clinical and ethical practice

Interpretation Guidelines: Preventive Resins

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.

Preventative Resins

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 preventative resins by dental hygienists.

BACKGROUND

As stated in the Scope of Practice Statement, dental hygienists may apply preventative resin materials. The resins used for preventative resins are of a similar composition to the composite resins used for pit and fissure sealants. The management and application techniques of both materials are similar.

However, tooth preparations for fissure sealants and preventative resins differ. To prepare a tooth surface for a sealant, the surface is cleaned and an acid etchant is applied to create retentive micropores. When the dentist prepares a tooth surface for a preventative resin, a preparation is cut into the tooth surface using a bur or an aluminum oxide air abrasion system. As stated in the Sealant interpretation guideline, aluminum oxide air abrasives cut hard tissue, which is outside the dental hygiene scope of practice.

POLICY

Registrants may apply preventative resins on a tooth surface that has been prepared by a dentist, provided that appropriate education has been completed. It is not within the dental hygiene scope of practice to diagnose or remove decay, as both of these are restricted activities that fall within the scope of practice that applies to dentists.

REFERENCES

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

Added to Handbook: Prior to June 2004

Updated: September 2013

