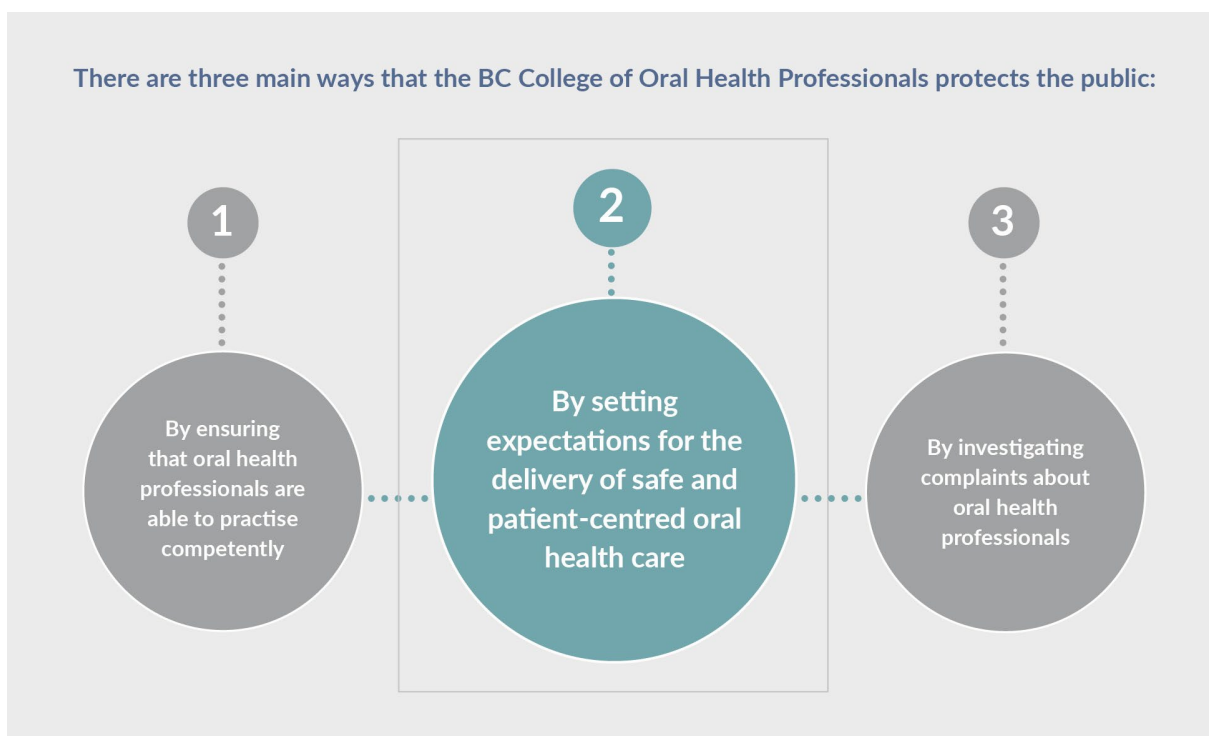


Expectations for clinical and ethical practice

Guidance for Prescriptions

Applies to Denturists

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



Disclaimer: This document was developed by the former College of Denturists of BC and College of Dental Surgeons of BC before the amalgamation of BC's four oral health regulatory colleges in 2022 and the introduction of BCCOHP's *Professional Standards for the Oral Health Team* (Professional Standards), effective June 30, 2025. The Professional Standards define the minimum expectations for professional and ethical conduct, performance, and behaviour for regulated oral health professionals in BC.

While BCCOHP is in the process of rescinding and replacing all legacy practice resources with unified standards, this document remains applicable.



Amended definition of a prescription

On February 24, 2020, the Ministry of Health announced amendments to the regulations (scope of practice statements) for dental hygienists, dental technicians, denturists and dentists. One significant change that may affect the provision of services provided by denturists is the amended definition of prescription.

The Denturists Regulation now defines a prescription as “an authorization, issued by a person who is authorized under the Act to prescribe a partial denture or overdenture, to dispense a partial denture or overdenture for use by a named individual”.

What is an authorization?

An authorization is permission or authority to do something.

Who is authorized to prescribe a partial denture or overdenture?

Dentists are authorized under the *Health Professions Act* to prescribe a partial denture or overdenture as part of the patient’s treatment plan. The dentist and denturist must work collaboratively to ensure the treatment options are appropriate.

Guidance

1. Prescriptions for dispensing a partial denture or overdenture to a patient may be written or verbal.
2. Prescriptions must be based on collaborative discussion and decision-making amongst the patient and the oral healthcare team.
3. Oral healthcare providers must have the education, knowledge and skills to authorize and fill the prescription.
4. Denturists must examine the patient to ensure they are in suitable condition for treatment.
5. Patient records must include thorough documentation of those discussions and decisions, including the authorization by the dentist.