

# Quality assurance program: Guiding principles

## Background

One of the main ways the BC College of Oral Health Professionals (BCCOHP) fulfills its public protection mandate is by ensuring that the oral health professionals we regulate are able to practice competently. One of the core ways we do this is by administering a quality assurance program that aligns with applicable legislation.

When BCCOHP came into existence in 2022 via amalgamation, the pre-existing quality assurance programs from the four legacy colleges transferred over unchanged. One of our 2024-27 strategic focuses is modernizing our regulatory functions. This includes developing a new quality assurance program for all the oral health professionals we regulate.

The principles included below reflect the fundamental values and beliefs that will guide the development and implementation of BCCOHP's new quality assurance program, and its ongoing administration.

## Principles

The quality assurance program will:

1. Support oral health professionals in maintaining their practice currency and professional engagement, while recognizing the diversity of practice settings.
2. Implement a proportionate approach that considers risks related to an oral health professional's competency as well as risks inherent within professional practice.
3. Strive to be fair, meaningful, and accessible for oral health professionals, while remaining feasible for the regulator.
4. Promote inclusivity and cultural safety and humility to address barriers to oral health equity.
5. Adopt a data-driven approach that embraces innovation, continuous improvement, feedback from key audiences, and transparency.
6. Integrate research and evidence-informed approaches.

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