

Section 7

Code of Ethics

This section contains the College code of ethics. This code forms part of the bylaws, but is presented separately in this section due to its importance to all registrants.

Code of Ethics

General

Every registrant is charged with the duty to uphold the honour and dignity of the profession of denturism and to adhere strictly to the principles set forth in this code.

The profession is given the privilege of self-governance under the *Act* and, accordingly, registrants must understand the *Act*, the regulations, and the bylaws and must strictly observe or perform their duties and obligations thereunder.

To uphold and advance the honour and dignity of the profession and its high standards of ethical conduct, registrants must:

- be honest and impartial in serving their patients, the public and their profession;
- strive to increase the competence and status of their profession;
- use their knowledge and skill to improve the health and well being of their patients and the public; and
- respect the dignity and professional status of, and professional relationships with, their colleagues.

Duty to the Public

The duty of the registrants to the public includes:

- educating the public in the promotion of oral and removable prosthodontic health, but presentations for such purposes must be in accordance with generally accepted professional standards and must not contravene these bylaws with respect to marketing or professional services;
- providing leadership in community activities whose purpose is to improve the health and well being of the individual and the community;
- publicizing any advance or discovery in any branch of removable prosthetic science in journals and professional publication; and
- not making any statement or declaration or sign any certificate or any other document, or induce or permit a patient to sign any certificate or document which they know or ought to know to be untrue, misleading, or otherwise improper.

Duty to Patients

The duty of registrants to patients includes:

- maintaining patient confidentiality except as may be necessary to divulge such information as contained elsewhere in these bylaws or in connection with investigations by the inquiry committee under section 33 of the *Act*, or except to the extent the patient has expressly agreed that the registrant may release specific information;
- consulting and providing treatment to any member of the public or, if they are unavailable, to make alternate arrangements;
- maintaining their knowledge of denturism; and
- rendering treatment only in accordance with current professional standards, except that a registrant may use experimental methods and materials in treatment provided such methods and materials:
 - are within the bounds of accepted scientific criteria for well designed experiments, such as the human experimental protocol established by the University of British Columbia, for research and other studies involving human subjects in effect from time to time;
 - have been approved in writing by the College;
 - are used in accordance with the requirements set forth in that approval; and
 - are explained to patients as being experimental and the range and possible results and problems of the experiment are conveyed.

Registrants may treat patients only when they are qualified by training or experience to carry out the treatment plan. Registrants must always be willing to check their diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis by consultation with fellow practitioners or specialist in the field of dentistry or medicine pertaining to the case under consideration. Registrants must be willing to refer a patient when advisable.

Registrants must protect the health of their patients at all times by not delegating or referring any duty or procedure to a person who is not qualified to perform such duty or procedure by skill or training, or by licensure if required under the *Act*, the regulations or these bylaws, and by not condoning or being a party to such delegations or referrals. Registrants must ensure the actions of all personnel within their employ or control comply with the *Act*, the regulations, and these bylaws.

Registrants must keep adequate records of all clinical findings, diagnosis and treatment with respect to each of their patients. When a registrant who is presently treating a patient requests records for another registrant who has formerly treated the patient, the registrant must make copies of those records

available to the attending registrant only where the patient has instructed that the records be transmitted and has given his/her consent for their release.

A registrant who is providing service to the former patient of another registrant should make every effort to obtain a copy of the patient's records from the previous registrant.

Duty to the Profession

The duty of registrants to the profession includes:

- supporting and providing advancement of the profession; and
- providing the highest standard of care and accepting full responsibility for treatments provided.

Duty to Colleagues

Registrants should not:

- comment or pass judgement on the qualifications of, or procedures rendered by, other registrants unless
 - such comment is in the best interests of the patient's health and well being;
 - the registrant has been subpoenaed as a witness and is testifying under oath.
- compete for patients or professional services by methods which would adversely affect the honour, dignity, or credibility of the profession; or
- compare their professional competence to that of other registrants.

In the event of a consultation, registrants should render only the treatment which was specifically requested.