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.

Please review the **Interpretive guidelines for the definition of a prescription** for more details.