



COLLEGE OF
DENTURISTS
OF ONTARIO

Message to Registered Denturists

Chief Medical Officer of Health - Directive

March 20, 2020

To All Registered Denturists;

The Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) has issued a directive to all Regulated Health Care Providers, including Registered Denturists, to **immediately cease or reduce** all non-essential and elective services until further notice, subject to allowable exceptions. This is a confirmation of the College's message to all Registered Denturists on March 16, 2020 strongly recommending that all non-essential denturism care and service be suspended immediately. The directive from CMOH has now codified this message and all Registered Denturists **must** comply.

The entire Directive can be viewed [here](#).

Elements of the Directive that may be more important to Registered Denturists are copied below but you should review the entire directive. In some cases, comments are provided below *in italics*.

What this means for Registered Denturists

- All Registered Denturists are now **required** to immediately cease or reduce all non-essential and elective services until further notice. This has been updated from a recommendation.
- The College will notify you when this directive is rescinded and altered.

What are allowable exceptions?

- Allowable exceptions can be made for time sensitive circumstances to avert or avoid negative patient outcomes or to avert or avoid a situation that would have a direct impact on the safety of patients
- Registered Denturists are in the best position to determine what is essential. In making decisions regarding the reduction or elimination of non-essential and elective services, Registered Denturists should use the following principles:
 1. **Minimizing Harm to Patients.** Decisions should attempt to limit harm to patients wherever possible. This requires considering the differential benefits and burdens to patients and patient populations as well as available alternatives to relieve pain and suffering. *(In other words, the benefits of providing a service that a Registered Denturist deems essential must outweigh the risks associated with providing that*

service to a patient. This is particularly true for Denturism patients that are often more vulnerable because of advanced age. The only determinant in this decision will be the risk to the patient.)

- 2. Proportionality.** Decision to eliminate non-essential services should be proportionate to the real or anticipated limitations in capacity to provide those services. *(for example, A Registered Denturist has access to an adequate supply of personal protective equipment when electing to provide essential care.)*
- 3. Equity.** Equity requires that all persons in the same category (i.e. at different levels of urgency) be treated in the same way unless relevant differences exist. This requires considering time on wait lists and experience with prior cancellations.
- 4. Reciprocity.** Certain patients and patient populations will be particularly burdened as a result of cancelling non-essential services. Patients should have the ability to have their health monitored, receive appropriate care, and be re-evaluated for emergent activities should it be required.

As this outbreak evolves, there will be continual review of emerging evidence to understand the most appropriate measures to take to protect patients and health care providers. This will continue to be done in collaboration with health system partners and technical experts from Public Health Ontario and with the health system and the College. The College will continue to update developments to all Registered Denturists as they become available.

Questions?

You are also welcome to contact the College directly if you have any questions regarding this development.

The Practice Advisory service continues to take calls and emails (416-925-6331 ext. 224 or by email at jslabodkin@denturists-cdo.com).

Please be mindful that College staff are working diligently to provide you with the information you may seek but our response time may be a little longer than usual because of the volume of requests for information. Your professional associations remain a resource for its member.



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