



COVID-19 Update

Registered Denturists;

My apologies for interrupting your long week-end with yet another communication from the College but I have received a request from some members of the profession to provide some clarification around a couple of matters that are receiving some attention right now. We are in a time that is ripe for confusion and questioning with different provinces at different stages of reopening and our own province has just entered into Phase 1 of Reopening Our Province with some messaging that is, perhaps, unclear. In addition, the Health Profession Regulators are working hard to get Return to Practice guides and protocols in place for their members prior to reopening so there are a lot of draft documents in play that, when viewed without proper background knowledge or context, will also create questions. So here goes:

1. Phase 1 of Reopening Our Province does not apply to any of the Oral Health professions, including Denturists. In the [Detailed List of Stage 1 Openings](#) "Health Services" was mentioned. Denturism does not fall under this list. We know this because the Registrars of the Health Profession Regulatory Colleges have just started having preliminary conversations the Ministry of Health around return to practice for Regulated Health Professionals (including Denturists). No date or timeline for return to practice has been provided or discussed. However, it is encouraging that this conversation is starting. How long will it be? We do not know. In the grand scheme of things, it appears that Phase 1 will need to be in play for a few weeks so that its effect on COVID-19 numbers can be assessed.
2. College staff and representatives from the Professional Associations are working hard to complete a Guide for Return to Practice for Denturists. The goal is to make a document with practical content that makes sense in the practice of Denturism. This document should be available to you within 2 weeks. The Guide will address enhanced Infection and Control procedures in the face of the COVID-19 Pandemic. These enhancements are essential to the protection of your patients, many of whom fall within the category of the more vulnerable, your staff, and you, the healthcare provider. Such enhancements will help in fostering confidence of the public as it seeks Denturism care and services amidst COVID-19. Keep in mind that the profession of Denturism does have the advantage in this area because the fabrication and fitting of dentures is not seen to be an aerosol generating procedure like other oral health procedures that involve the use of intraoral instruments that create aerosols.
3. In addition to this Guide for Return to Practice for Denturists, there is a document of return to practice "principles" that was developed by the oral health regulatory bodies, including the College of Denturists of Ontario. These are broad principles that speak in very general terms about considerations for return to practice. The principles will be interpreted differently by regulators of the different Oral Health Professions and should not be interpreted or considered outside of the context of the specific Guide for Return to Practice for Denturists that we will be releasing in the near future.

As I mentioned at the top, there is a lot of opportunity for confusion and question right now because of all the different moving parts, both in Ontario and across the country. I also acknowledge that people want and need to return to practice. However, we need to take this step by step and Public Health Ontario and the Ministry of Health are doing just that. The Guide for Return to Practice for Denturists will be available to you soon so you can start planning for re-opening. We will notify the members of the profession as soon as we have further information regarding when this return to practice will occur.

Again, I apologize for taking up time on this sunny long week-end but I thought this information might be useful for you in this time of uncertainty.

Best regards,

Dr. Glenn Pettifer
Registrar and CEO

Links to the following documents:

[Government of Ontario's Detailed List of Stage 1 Openings](#)

Questions?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

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