



**College of Alberta
Dental Assistants**

College Connect

May 16, 2023

Introduction & Housekeeping

Presenters

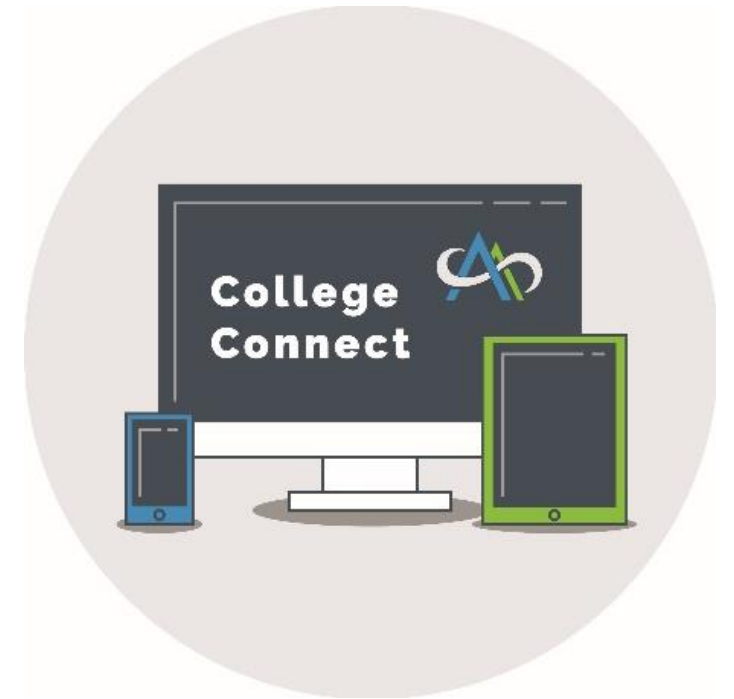
- **April Slotsve**, Education and Practice Director
- **Jennifer Tewes**, Registrar

Housekeeping

- **connection issues** try reconnecting using same link, check your email
- use the **Questions feature** to submit questions live or to make comments
- length **45 minutes**
- session **not recorded**

Content

- What are the recent changes in legislation and how do the changes impact dental assistants?
- What is the authorized practice for dental assistants in Alberta?
- What did we learn from the CCP Audit this year and how can that learning support dental assistants with future audits?



Recent Changes in Legislation

- *Health Professions Act*
- *Dental Assistants Profession Regulation*
- *Health Professions Restricted Activities Regulation*
- Radiation Protection in Dentistry - Safety Code 30 (2022)



Health Professions Act

Bill 46, the Health Statutes Amendment Act 2020

- improve governance and accountability
- separate regulatory colleges from associations and unions
- allow for the regulation of multiple professions within a regulatory college
- public-facing, centralized online registry

Dental Assistants Profession Regulation

Amended March 31, 2023

- several sections repealed and moved into other documents like the *Health Professions Act*, College Bylaws and Standards of Practice (<https://abrda.ca/front-page/dental-assistants-profession-regulation-amended/>)
- Restricted Activities in new *Health Professions Restricted Activities Regulation*

Health Professions Restricted Activities Regulation

- health services that pose significant risk and require a high level of professional competence
- dental assistants must perform only those restricted activities they are authorized and competent to perform and that are appropriate to the practice of dental assisting under the Act and the Regulation
- must perform the restricted activities in accordance with standards of practice and must meet the requirements for demonstrating competence established by the Council under the Act and the Regulation

Radiation Protection in Dentistry

Safety Code 30

Who is this safety code for?

It guides the owners of dental facilities, dentists, dental hygienists, dental therapists, dental assistants, radiation/X-ray safety officers and other individuals or organizations concerned with radiation safety procedures, equipment performance, and radiation protection for the use of dental X-ray equipment.



Changes to Safety Code 30

- Radiation Safety Officers are now called Coordinators of the Radiation Protection Program (A.1.2).
- Changes to the wearing of dosimetry devices. **However**, this is superseded in Alberta by the OHS Code (291.5 and 291.6), therefore **dosimetry badges are still mandatory** (A.2.1.9).

Changes to Safety Code 30

- Different scenarios have different lead apron requirements (A.3.2).
- Rectangular collimation of the x-ray beam must be used, as it reduces the dose to the patient. (A.3.2.2.2).
- Quality assurance programs now have daily, monthly and yearly classification procedures (C1.2-C3.0).

Understanding Authorized Practice for Dental Assistants

- Practice Permits
- Competency Profile for Dental Assistants
- Entry and Advanced Practices
- Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics
- Supervision
- Conditions
- Accountability



Entry Practices

- dental radiographs
- impressions
- dental dam
- selective coronal polishing and anticariogenic agents
- pit and fissure sealants
- desensitizing agents
- matrices and wedges
- topical anaesthetic
- suture removal
- bases and liners

Advanced Practices

- orthodontics
- preventive
- probing
- prosthodontics

Restricted Activities for Dental Assistants

Standards of Practice s.8

- exposing radiographs
- periodontal screening and recording
- dental probing
- preliminary fit of a fixed or removable partial or complete denture, periodontal appliance or orthodontic appliance
- scaling of teeth

Supervision

- Supervision of Restricted Activities for Students - Standards of Practice s.9
- Provisional Practice Permit
- “Direction” on-site and able to assist



Conditions Imposed on Practice

Health Professions Act s.40.1(1)

- practise under supervision
- limited services or areas
- reporting
- specified purpose or time
- prohibit supervision of others
- complete requirements within specified time



2023 CCP Audit Results

- 5% of registrants selected for audit
- audit submission deadline was February 28th
- by March 31st - 61% of audits were “Satisfactory”
- by May 2nd - 98% of audits were “Satisfactory”



Continuing Competence Process



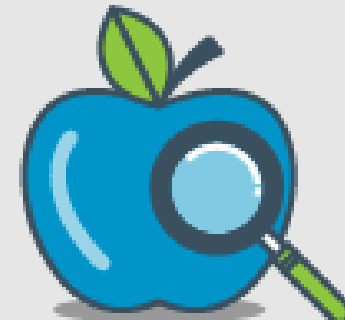
Assess

- Where is there a need for improvement in my practice?
- How can I enhance the patient's experience?
- Do I lack confidence or knowledge in one area?
- How can I learn and grow?



Achieve

- Attend a seminar or webinar.
- Be mentored by a colleague or employer.
- Learn by using a textbook or website.
- Complete a continuing education course.



Analyze

- What can I do as a result of completing my learning objective?
- How has my learning improved my practice and confidence?
- Did I meet my learning needs?

CCP Common Deficiencies

- Dental assistants are busy professionals that learn and grow throughout their career.

- They “**Achieve**” continuously.



- As a regulator we are looking for our registrants to show that they also “**Assess**” and “**Analyze**” their growth.

Assess



Every Year

- two Learning Objectives
- a Learning Statement for each Learning Objective

Answer both questions:

1. What do I plan to learn?
2. Why did I choose this learning objective?

Analyze

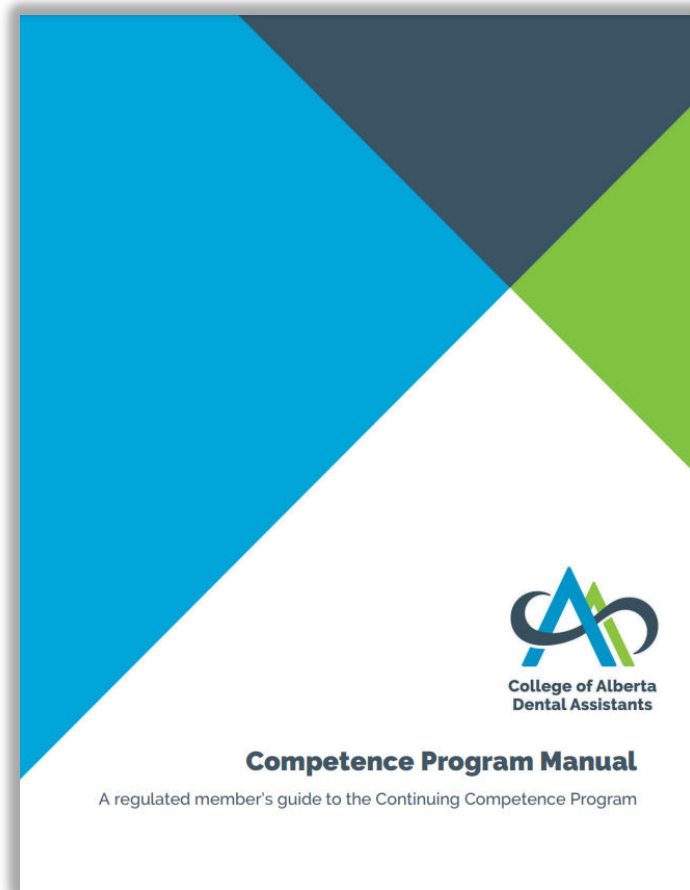


A Results Statement for each Learning Objective

Answer one of these questions:

1. What can I do as a result of completing this activity?
2. How has completing this improved my practice as a dental assistant?

CCP Support



CCP Evaluation



**What questions do
you have for us?**



What College events are coming up?

- Council Meeting – May 27
- CCP Workshop – September 12
- College Connect – September 18
- Renewal Workshops – dates TBD
- CCP Workshop – November 18
- Council Meeting – November 25





**College of Alberta
Dental Assistants**

Thank you for attending

Next College Connect – September 18, 2023