

Standards of Practice

Proposed Addition

To address cultural safety in dental assisting practice, we are proposing to add criteria to Standard 3 – Patient-Centred Practice.

The new criteria will be added as items b) through f) and the existing criteria will be renumbered. With the addition, Standard 3 will read:

3 Patient-Centred Practice

3.1 Dental Assistants place patients' well-being first.

Criteria

3.2 Dental Assistants

- a) are guided by the patient's needs;
- b) listen to the patient's perception of the problem, issue or concern;**
- c) acknowledge the patient's lived experiences and concerns as their reality;**
- d) explain the treatment recommended based on the diagnosis and allow for the patient's feedback before moving forward;**
- e) seek informed consent, including any modifications to the treatment plan made by the directing oral health professional to accommodate the patient's wishes;**
- f) move forward with treatment in partnership with the patient;**
- g) must not procure or perform female genital mutilation;¹
- h) continually evaluate processes and outcomes to meet and improve the standard of care for patients;
- i) maintain complete and accurate patient records in compliance with the policies and protocols of their place of practice and all relevant legislation or professional regulatory requirements;
- j) respect and maintain the confidentiality of patient-related information;²
- k) advocate for patients to assist them in meeting their oral health care needs; and
- l) avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest.

¹ Personal Information Protection Act, Health Information Act, etc.

² Personal Information Protection Act, Health Information Act, etc.