



**College of Alberta
Dental Assistants**

Registration Policy 007

Advanced practice authorization

REG-POL-007 Advanced practice authorization

Legislative authority: This policy is established under sections 3, 6, 9, 43 and 44 of the *Health Professions Act*; sections 3, 5 and 7 of the *Dental Assistants Profession Regulation*; section 7 of the *Health Professions Restricted Activity Regulation*; sections 3 to 9 of the *Fair Registration Practices Act*; and the *Labour Mobility Act*. It guides Council and the Registrar and Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) in transparent, objective, impartial, and procedurally fair decisions authorizing regulated members to perform advanced practices beyond entry-to-practice authorization.

1.0 Purpose

This policy establishes the governance framework for authorizing regulated members of the College of Alberta Dental Assistants to perform advanced practices beyond entry-to-practice competencies. It confirms that authorization decisions are made transparently, objectively, impartially, and in accordance with legislation.

Advanced Practice Authorization verifies that regulated members have completed Council-approved education, training, or assessment and demonstrated competence for safe, effective, and ethical performance of advanced practices. This policy ensures decisions remain within the College's statutory authority, comply with the *Fair Registration Practices Act*, and are defensible under the *Health Professions Act*, the *Dental Assistants Profession Regulation*, and the *Labour Mobility Act*.

2.0 Scope

This policy governs all applications for authorization to perform advanced practices.

It applies to Council, the Registrar and Chief Executive Officer (or delegate), the Registration Committee, and College staff involved in authorization assessment and decision-making. It also applies to all regulated members of the College who seek authorization to perform advanced practices requiring additional education, training, or assessment beyond entry-to-practice. Regulated members must not perform any advanced practice procedures until authorization has been approved and confirmed on their practice permit.

Following assessment under this policy, the College, through the Registrar and Chief Executive Officer (or delegate), may:

1. **approve authorization for the regulated member to perform one or more advanced practices**, with or without limits, conditions, or supervision requirements; or
2. **defer a decision pending completion** of identified education, supervised practice, or competence requirements; or
3. **refuse authorization**, with written reasons and information on review or appeal rights provided in accordance with REG-POL-008 Registration Decisions, Reviews and Timelines, sections 33 and 34 of the *Health Professions Act*, and the *Fair Registration Practices Act*.

3.0 Principles

The College applies the following principles to ensure authorization decisions are consistent, fair, and defensible:

1. **Public protection** is maintained by ensuring only competent, qualified, and ethical regulated members perform advanced practices.
2. **Legislative consistency** is upheld by aligning authorization decisions with the *Health Professions Act*, the *Dental Assistants Profession Regulation*, the *Health Professions Restricted Activity Regulation*, and the *Fair Registration Practices Act*.
3. **Accountability** is ensured as Council sets policy and standards, and the Registrar and Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) applies them consistently and records decisions transparently.
4. **Transparency and fairness** guide all decisions, ensuring objectivity, impartiality, and procedural fairness.
5. **Competence assurance** is achieved through Council-approved education, training, and assessment, verifying that regulated members meet the standards required for advanced practices.
6. **Strategic alignment** ensures authorization practices support the College's Strategic Plan and reinforce the College's mandate to protect and serve the public interest.

4.0 Authorization

Authorization to perform advanced or specialized advanced practices is established under the *Dental Assistants Profession Regulation* and verified by the Registrar and Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) before approval. Decisions are evidence-informed, transparent, objective, impartial, and procedurally fair in accordance with the *Fair Registration Practices Act*. This policy complements REG-POL-006 Entry Practice Authorization and confirms that advanced authorization is granted only after verification of entry-to-practice competence and ongoing compliance with regulatory standards. Regulated members must obtain advanced authorization from the College before performing any advanced practice competencies.

4.1 Eligibility for authorization

To qualify for authorization to perform advanced practices, applicants must:

1. hold an active registration and practice permit with the College;
2. have successfully completed a Council-approved advanced education or training program, or have been determined substantially equivalent under section 5 of the *Dental Assistants Profession Regulation* by the Registrar and Chief Executive Officer (or delegate);
3. provide evidence of competence through a Council-approved advanced assessment, where applicable; and
4. meet all Direction and Supervision requirements in the Standards of Practice before performing advanced practices.

Regulated members who have previously held advanced practice authorization may apply to reinstate those authorizations upon reinstatement of registration and practice permit under REG-POL-005 Practice Permit Reinstatement, subject to verification of current practice and competence.

Operational procedures are outlined in REG-PRC-007 Advanced Practice Authorization Procedure.

4.2 Advanced practices

1. Authorized regulated members may perform only those advanced practices approved by the Registrar and Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) in accordance with the *Health Professions Restricted Activity Regulation* and the Standards of Practice, including Direction and Supervision requirements.
2. Authorized regulated members may perform advanced practices only under the direction, and supervision where required, of an authorized practitioner as set out in the Standards of Practice.
3. Advanced or specialized advanced practices may include, but are not limited to, those established by Council through approved education programs or identified in the *Health Professions Restricted Activity Regulation*. The College's advanced areas include Orthodontic, Preventive, Probing, and Prosthodontic. Specific activities, competency requirements, and evidence expectations for each area are defined in REG-PRC-007 Advanced Practice Authorization Procedure and related standards.
4. Advanced authorization does not substitute for entry-to-practice authorization under REG-POL-006 Entry Practice Authorization; it supplements the member's existing scope based on additional demonstrated competence.
5. No individual may perform advanced practices until authorization has been approved by the College and reflected on the member's practice permit.
6. Regulated members authorized to perform advanced practices may apply to reinstate or expand those authorizations upon renewal or reinstatement of their practice permit, subject to verification of competence and current practice under REG-POL-004 and REG-POL-005.

4.3 Decisions and communication

1. The Registrar and Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) issues all authorization decisions in writing, specifying the advanced practices approved, any limits or conditions, and applicable supervision requirements.
2. All decisions are communicated in writing with reasons and, where applicable, include information on review or appeal rights in accordance with REG-POL-008 Registration Decisions, Reviews and Timelines. Published timelines for acknowledgment, completeness checks, and decisions apply as set out in the *Fair Registration Practices Act*, and all decisions must be transparent, objective, impartial, and procedurally fair.
3. The College maintains a record of all decisions to support accountability, transparency, and compliance reporting.

5.0 Expected outcomes

1. **Public protection** is assured through transparent, objective, impartial, and procedurally fair authorization practices that ensure only competent and ethical regulated members perform advanced practices.
2. **Authorization processes** are timely, transparent, and compliant with legislation.
3. **Regulated members understand** requirements, timelines, and supervision expectations associated with advanced authorization.
4. **Administration of authorization** supports the College's Strategic Plan (2025–2030) Leading with Vision, Ensuring Public Trust, and fulfills obligations under the *Fair Registration Practices Act*.

This policy is reviewed annually, or sooner if required by legislative, regulatory, or strategic change, by the Registrar and Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) to confirm continued alignment with legislation, Council policy, and evolving standards of regulatory practice.

6.0 Related legislation and references

Legislation and regulation

Health Professions Act, sections 3, 6, 9, 43 and 44

Dental Assistants Profession Regulation (Alberta Regulation 252/2005), sections 3, 5 and 7

Health Professions Restricted Activity Regulation (Alberta Regulation 22/2023), section 7

Fair Registration Practices Act, sections 3 to 9

Labour Mobility Act

College authority and governance

Bylaws of the College of Alberta Dental Assistants (2023), sections 3 and 11

Standards of Practice (2023) of the College of Alberta Dental Assistants, including Direction and Supervision requirements for restricted activities

Code of Ethics (2020) of the College of Alberta Dental Assistants

Strategic Plan (2025–30) Leading with Vision, Ensuring Public Trust

Governance Policy on Council and Registrar and Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) Relationship (2024)

Registration Committee Terms of Reference (2024)

Related College policies

REG-POL-001 General Registration

REG-POL-002 Provisional Registration

REG-POL-004 Practice Permit Renewal

REG-POL-005 Practice Permit Reinstatement

REG-POL-006 Entry Practice Authorization

REG-POL-008 Registration Decisions, Reviews and Timelines

REG-POL-009 Good Character, Reputation and Criminal Record Check

REG-POL-010 Professional Liability Insurance

REG-POL-011 Current Practice

REG-POL-012 English Language Proficiency

REG-POL-013 Cancellation of Registration and Practice Permit

7.0 Definitions

1. **College of Alberta Dental Assistants:** the regulatory body established under the *Health Professions Act*, responsible for governing the practice of dental assisting in Alberta to protect and serve the public interest. For the purposes of policies, the term “College” refers to the College of Alberta Dental Assistants.
2. **Advanced practice authorization:** authorization granted by the College confirming a regulated member’s eligibility and competence to perform advanced practices beyond entry-to-practice authorization.
3. **Advanced education or training:** a Council-approved course or program that provides the knowledge, skills, and judgment required for advanced practices.
4. **Advanced practices:** procedures or services identified in the *Health Professions Restricted Activity Regulation* or approved by Council that require education, training, and competence beyond entry-to-practice authorization.
5. **Restricted activity:** a procedure or service listed in the *Health Professions Restricted Activity Regulation* that a dental assistant may perform when authorized under the *Health Professions Act* and in compliance with Direction and Supervision requirements in the Standards of Practice.
6. **Direction and supervision:** requirements set out in the Standards of Practice specifying the conditions under which a dental assistant performs advanced practices, including direction and supervision requirements where applicable.
7. **Substantial equivalence:** a determination by the Registrar and Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) under section 5 of the *Dental Assistants Profession Regulation* that a member’s education and experience are equivalent to the competencies required for advanced authorization.

8.0 Document information

Policy type	Registration			
Policy owner	Registrar and Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) of the College of Alberta Dental Assistants			
Approved by	Council of the College of Alberta Dental Assistants			
Approval date	November 22, 2025			
Effective date	January 1, 2026			
Review schedule	Annually or sooner if required by legislative, regulatory, or strategic change.			
Approval history	Version	Date	Council Motion #	Summary of Revision
Related documents	REG-POL-001 General Registration REG-POL-002 Provisional Registration REG-POL-004 Practice Permit Renewal REG-POL-005 Practice Permit Reinstatement REG-POL-006 Entry Practice Authorization REG-POL-008 Registration Decisions, Reviews and Timelines			

	<p>REG-POL-009 Good Character, Reputation and Criminal Record Check</p> <p>REG-POL-010 Professional Liability Insurance</p> <p>REG-POL-011 Current Practice</p> <p>REG-POL-012 English Language Proficiency</p> <p>REG-POL-013 Cancellation of Registration and Practice Permit</p> <p>REG-PRC-007 Advanced Practice Authorization Procedure</p> <p>Standards of Practice (2023)</p> <p>Code of Ethics (2020)</p> <p>Strategic Plan (2025-30) Leading with Vision, Ensuring Public Trust</p>
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