

PART 8 – DELEGATION AND SUPERVISION

Interpretation

8.01 In this Part:

“**dental assistant**” means a person other than a certified dental assistant or dental hygienist who assists a dentist with the provision of services;

“**dental hygienist**” means a registrant of the College of Dental Hygienists of British Columbia who is authorized under the Act to practise dental hygiene;

“**Dental Radiography Module**” means a training program to provide specific training, in accordance with criteria established by the board, on the competent and safe exposure of dental radiographs under the supervision of a dentist;

“**dental technician**” means a registrant of the College of Dental Technicians of British Columbia who is authorized under the Act to practise dental technology;

“**denturist**” means a registrant of the College of Denturists of British Columbia who is authorized under the Act to practise denturism;

“**Orthodontic Module**” means a training program to provide specific training, in accordance with criteria established by the board, on the competent and safe provision of the services specified in section 8.09;

“**Prosthodontic Module**” means a training program to provide specific training, in accordance with criteria established by the board, on the competent and safe provision of the services specified in section 8.10;

“**service**” means a service included in dentistry.

Ultimate responsibility

- 8.02**
- (1) A dentist who delegates or supervises the provision of a service by a person who is not a dentist is ultimately responsible for the quality of care provided by that person.
 - (2) Despite subsection (1), a dentist is not ultimately responsible for the quality of care provided by a dental hygienist, dental technician, or denturist when the dental hygienist, dental technician, or denturist provides a service that they are authorized under the Act to provide without delegation or supervision by a dentist.
 - (3) For greater certainty, the provisions of this Part governing
 - (a) the delegation of services to a person who is not a dentist, and
 - (b) the authorization of the provision of services under the supervision of a dentist by a person who is not a dentist

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do not apply to the provision of services by a dental hygienist, dental technician, or denturist that the dental hygienist, dental technician, or denturist is authorized under the Act to provide without delegation or supervision by a dentist.

Delegation and supervision

- 8.03** (1) A dentist must not delegate or authorize the provision of any service that includes the performance of a restricted activity by a person who is not a dentist except in accordance with this Part and the standards of practice.
- (2) A dentist who delegates the provision of any service that includes the performance of a restricted activity to a person who is not a dentist must
- (a) provide specific and appropriate instructions to that person for the provision of the service, and
 - (b) be satisfied that
 - (i) the person is competent to provide the service safely, and
 - (ii) the service will be provided in accordance with the standards of practice.
- (3) If a dentist authorizes a person who is not a dentist to provide any service that includes the performance of a restricted activity under a dentist's supervision,
- (a) the authorizing dentist must provide specific and appropriate instructions to that person for the provision of the service,
 - (b) the authorizing dentist must be satisfied that
 - (i) the person is competent to provide the service safely, and
 - (ii) the service will be provided in accordance with the standards of practice and paragraph (c), and
 - (c) the supervising dentist must be present in the dental office or facility and available at all times while the service is provided by the person.
- (4) A dentist may delegate the provision of any service that does not include the performance of a restricted activity to a person who is not a dentist, if the dentist is satisfied that
- (a) the person is competent to provide the service safely, and
 - (b) the service will be provided in accordance with the standards of practice.

60-day rule

- 8.04** (1) A dentist must not delegate or authorize the provision of any service that includes the performance of a restricted activity by a dental assistant or certified dental assistance, unless the dentist
- (a) ensures that the service will be provided within

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- (i) 60 days after the dental assistant or certified dental assistant's receipt of specific and appropriate instructions from the dentist for the provision of that service, or
- (ii) such shorter period of time after receipt of such instructions as may be required under the standards of practice or as the dentist may otherwise consider necessary, and
- (b) examines the patient, or ensures that another dentist examines the patient
 - (i) during the course of the appointment at which the service is provided, unless the patient is returning for treatment that was authorized by a dentist who examined the patient within the previous 60 days and no further examination is required in accordance with the standards of practice, or
 - (ii) at the beginning of the appointment at which the service is provided, if required under the standards of practice or otherwise considered necessary by the dentist.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to the provision of services in the context of a certified dental assisting program, to the extent necessary to allow students to practise on each other for the duration of the educational year.

Provision of services including restricted activities by dental assistants

- 8.05** A dentist may authorize a dental assistant to provide the following services under the supervision of a dentist:
- (a) dispensing restorative materials into a prepared cavity;
 - (b) applying topical anaesthetic;
 - (c) placing and removing dental dams and dental dam clamps;
 - (d) supporting and removing impression materials after the dentist has placed them;
 - (e) exposing dental radiographs, if the dental assistant has completed a Dental Radiography Module.

Provision of services including restricted activities by practising certified dental assistants and temporary certified dental assistants

- 8.06** (1) A dentist may delegate the provision of the following services to a practising certified dental assistant or temporary certified dental assistant:
- (a) removing extrinsic stains not associated with calculus on the enamel of teeth using an appropriate hand instrument or slow-speed rotary instrument;
 - (b) applying anticariogenic agents;
 - (c) exposing dental radiographs.

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- (2) A dentist may authorize a practising certified dental assistant or temporary certified dental assistant to provide the following services under the supervision of a dentist:
- (a) any of the services referred to in subsection (1) or section 8.05;
 - (b) applying desensitizing agents, acid etch, antibacterial agents, chemical cleansers, primer and bond, and treatment liners (without pulpal involvement);
 - (c) obtaining impressions and occlusal records;
 - (d) applying and adjusting fissure sealants with an appropriate hand instrument or slow-speed rotary instrument;
 - (e) placing and removing dental dam clamps, matrices and wedges;
 - (f) using and maintaining coronal whitening systems where the concentration of bleaching agents poses minimal risk of patient harm;
 - (g) removing sutures, periodontal dressings and retraction cords;
 - (h) performing pulp vitality tests;
 - (i) the following services, if the practising certified dental assistant or temporary certified dental assistant has a minimum of one year of full-time clinical experience or the equivalent, and has received training that will allow them to provide the service competently and safely:
 - (i) intra-oral fabrication of single unit extra-coronal provisional restorations, including try-in, adjusting occlusion extra-orally, temporary cementation, removing provisional cement, and removing provisional restorations, provided that provisional restorations are assessed by a dentist before cementation and again after removal of provisional cement;
 - (ii) gross removal of supragingival permanent cement using an appropriate hand instrument and excluding the use of dental handpieces.

Provision of services including restricted activities by limited certified dental assistants

- 8.07** (1) A dentist may delegate the provision of any of the services referred to in section 8.06(1) to a limited certified dental assistant.
- (2) A dentist may authorize a limited certified dental assistant to provide any of the services referred to in section 8.06(2)(a) to (f) under the supervision of a dentist.

Expanded training programs

- 8.08** A certified dental assistant must notify the registrar upon successful completion of an Orthodontic Module, Prosthodontic Module or Dental Radiography Module.

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Orthodontic Module

- 8.09** (1) A dentist may delegate the provision of the following services to a practising certified dental assistant who has successfully completed an Orthodontic Module:
- (a) instructing in the use and care of orthodontic appliances;
 - (b) applying appropriate materials to irritating components or removing irritating components.
- (2) A dentist may authorize a practising certified dental assistant who has successfully completed the Orthodontic Module to provide the following services under the supervision of a dentist:
- (a) a service referred to in subsection (1);
 - (b) placing and removing orthodontic separators;
 - (c) preparing teeth for bonding or cementing of orthodontic attachments or bands;
 - (d) subject to subsection (3), fitting, placing, and light curing orthodontic bands or bondable attachments, with a dentist's assessment after fitting and again before light curing;
 - (e) removing excess adhesive material using appropriate hand instruments, or ultrasonic or slow-speed rotary instruments, following banding/bonding or debanding/debonding procedures;
 - (f) fitting and adjusting orthodontic appliances and archwires followed by assessment by a dentist;
 - (g) placing and ligating archwires after assessment by a dentist;
 - (h) removing ligating materials and archwires;
 - (i) removing orthodontic bands and bonded attachments using appropriate hand instruments.
- (3) Despite subsection (2)(d), attachment by self-curing materials must only be done by a dentist, and must not be delegated to or authorized to be performed by a person who is not a dentist.

Prosthodontic Module

- 8.10** A dentist may authorize a practising certified dental assistant who has successfully completed a Prosthodontic Module to provide the following services under the supervision of a dentist:
- (a) fabricating and trying-in provisional restorations intra-orally, including intra-coronal direct provisionals, and adjusting occlusion extra-orally, followed by assessment by a dentist before cementation;

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- (b) temporary cementation of provisional restorations and removal of temporary cement followed by assessment by a dentist;
- (c) performing non-surgical gingival retraction techniques excluding the use of epinephrine;
- (d) removing temporary and permanent cements using an appropriate hand instrument and excluding the use of dental handpieces;
- (e) removing provisional restorations.

Dental Radiography Module

8.11 A dentist may authorize a dental assistant who has successfully completed a Dental Radiography Module to expose dental radiographs under the supervision of a dentist.

Delegation to dental hygienists

- 8.12** (1) Subject to subsection (2), a dentist may delegate or authorize the provision of a service that includes the performance of a restricted activity by a dental hygienist, if the dentist
- (a) ensures that the service will be provided within
 - (i) 365 days after the dental hygienist's receipt of specific and appropriate instructions from the dentist for the provision of that service, or
 - (ii) such shorter period of time after receipt of such instructions as may be required under the standards of practice or as the dentist may otherwise consider necessary, and
 - (b) examines the patient, or ensures that another dentist examines the patient,
 - (i) during the course of the appointment at which the service is provided, unless the patient is returning for treatment that was authorized by a dentist who examined the patient within the previous 365 days and no further examination is required in accordance with the standards of practice, or
 - (ii) at the beginning of the appointment at which the service is provided, if required under the standards of practice or otherwise considered necessary by the dentist.
- (2) A dentist
- (a) must not delegate or authorize the provision of any of the services referred to in section 8.09(1) or (2) to a dental hygienist unless the dental hygienist has successfully completed an Orthodontic Module, and
 - (b) must not delegate or authorize the provision of any other orthodontic service that includes the performance of a restricted activity to a dental hygienist, other than a service referred to in section 8.09(1) or (2).

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- (3) In this section, “**restricted activity**” does not include an activity specified in section 5 of the Dental Hygienists Regulation, B.C. Reg. 276/2008.

Supervision of the provision of dental technology services

- 8.13** Nothing in this Part limits or restricts a dentist’s authority to authorize a person who is not a dental technician to provide a service of dental technology under the supervision of a dentist, in accordance with section 5(2) of the Dental Technicians Regulation, B.C. Reg. 278/2008.

Provision of services including restricted activities by dental students

- 8.14** A dentist may authorize a student enrolled in the undergraduate program of the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of British Columbia to provide a service that includes the performance of a restricted activity under the supervision of a dentist, in accordance with any applicable standards of practice,
- (a) for the purpose of the student’s fulfillment of the requirements of the undergraduate program of the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of British Columbia,
 - (b) in a setting operated by or affiliated with the University of British Columbia, and
 - (c) in accordance with any standards or requirements established by the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of British Columbia.

Provision of services by dental therapists

- 8.15** (1) A dental therapist may provide dental therapist services only
- (a) under the supervision and direction of a dentist who is in good standing, and
 - (b) in accordance with standards of practice or standards of professional ethics, if any, respecting the supervision and direction referred to in paragraph (a).
- (2) For greater certainty, the provisions in sections 8.02(1) and 8.03 do not apply in respect of dental therapists or dental therapist services, except to the extent those provisions are expressly made applicable to dentists, dental therapists or dental therapist services by standards of practice, or standards of professional ethics, described in subsection (1)(b).