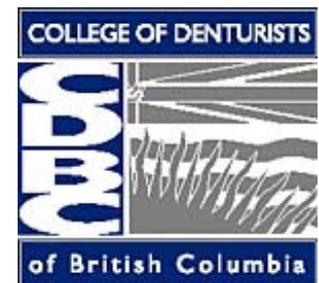


# Oral Health Regulator Amalgamation

## Backgrounder

January 2021



# We want to hear from you

The four oral health colleges are actively pursuing amalgamation in response to the Ministry of Health's efforts to modernize the regulatory framework for all health colleges in B.C.

The College of Dental Hygienists of BC (CDHBC), and College of Dental Technicians of BC (CDTBC), the College of Dental Surgeons of BC (CDSBC) and College of Denturists of BC (CDBC) will be replaced by a new single oral health regulator that will govern the six oral health professions in the public interest.



College of Dental Hygienists  
of British Columbia



**CDSBC**

College of Dental Surgeons  
of British Columbia

# We want to hear from you

On August 31, the four oral health regulators shared a [joint letter](#) confirming their agreement that having a single regulator for all oral health professions will benefit the public.



**Single oral health professions regulator included in proposed regulatory reform announcement by Health Minister**

August 31, 2020

*Below is an important message from B.C.'s four dental colleges in response to proposed changes to the regulation of oral health care in B.C. announced by the Minister of Health on August 27, 2020.*

Last week, Minister of Health Adrian Dix [announced the government's plan](#) for modernizing the health regulatory system to better serve patients and the public.

Among the regulatory reform measures proposed, he confirmed the government's intent that the four colleges that regulate dental professionals come together to form a new College of Oral

<https://www.cdsbc.org/Documents/Joint-OH-statement-modernization-announcement-8-31.pdf>

# We want to hear from you

The amalgamation of the four oral health Colleges is informed by the government's larger regulatory modernization effort, which includes the following recommendations:

- reduce the number of regulatory Colleges to improve efficiency and effectiveness;
- improve patient safety and public protection; and,
- improve transparency and accountability to the public.

As the work progresses, the colleges are committed to ongoing timely and transparent communication with oral health professionals and the public.

An understanding of your perceptions and views about the amalgamation will guide our planning and ensure meaningful communication as the process moves forward. After reviewing this information, we hope you will share your thoughts.

# How to provide your views

Small group meetings will be held online in February. Led by an independent facilitator, these meetings provide the opportunity for registrants to engage in a discussion about:

- the challenges and opportunities of forming a single regulator for oral health professionals, and
- the impacts of amalgamation on you as a registrant.

There will be separate meetings for each category of oral health care professional. Meeting participants are eligible for two CE credits.

**If you would like to participate in one of our small group meetings in February, please express your interest by filling out the form at <https://analytics-ca.clickdimensions.com/cn/aoixp/amalgamationform>**

A summary report of these meetings will be shared with the leaders of the amalgamation project at the four oral health colleges (including the Transition Steering Committee). All information will be carefully considered as we move forward in this process.

# Amalgamation of Oral Health Regulators

The College of Dental Hygienists of BC (CDHBC), and College of Dental Technicians of BC (CDTBC), the College of Dental Surgeons of BC (CDSBC) and College of Denturists of BC (CDBC) plan to amalgamate into a single oral health regulator that will govern the six oral health professions in the public interest.

## **What is a regulatory college?**

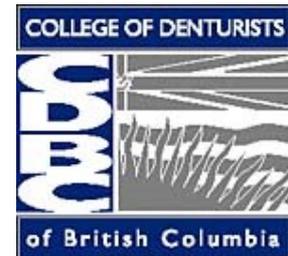
Health profession regulatory colleges in BC protect patients and the public by ensuring that regulated health professionals provide services in a safe, competent, and ethical manner. Regulatory colleges set entry to practice standards and hold a register of those registered professionals, set standards of practice and conduct, set and maintain standards of ongoing education and training, and investigate and resolve complaints.

There are 18 regulatory colleges established under B.C.'s *Health Professions Act*, which provides a common regulatory framework for 25 health professions.

# Amalgamation of Oral Health Regulators

There are currently four colleges that regulate six oral health professionals:

- College of Dental Hygienists of B.C.
- College of Dental Technicians of B.C.
- College of Dental Surgeons of B.C. (includes Dentists, Dental Therapists, and CDAs)
- College of Denturists of B.C.



# Why Amalgamate?

Amalgamation of the four oral health Colleges has been informed by recommendations by the Minister of Health for a larger modernization effort of BC's health regulatory framework, which includes reducing the number of Colleges.

The four oral health colleges are in agreement that having a single regulator for all oral health disciplines will benefit the public.

- It will promote team-based dental care, and provide a single point of contact for patients, the public and registrants alike.
- It will simplify navigation for patients, their families and the public with questions and concerns related to their oral health and improve effectiveness through shared resources and experience.

# What are the goals of the Amalgamation?

College leaders, supported by their respective boards, formed an initial steering committee in early 2020.

The group, comprised of the board chairs and registrars, began meeting on a regular basis to explore alignment of the four colleges regarding an amalgamation and to develop a shared vision of the new organization.

The steering committee has agreed on a set of goals to establish a College of Oral Health Professionals as a preeminent regulator and a catalyst for positive change in oral health care. These include:

- Adhere to regulation that is proportionate to the level of risk and embraces the principles of accountability, consistency, transparency, agility, and targeted regulation.

# What are the goals of the Amalgamation?

- Embrace best practices in governance through evidence-informed strategic priorities and risk management that improve performance, enhance trust, and measure regulatory outcomes.
- Establish a transparent, competent, diverse, agile governing board, free from professional interest, with a clear understanding of its roles and responsibilities.
- Establish a committee structure that fosters effective decision-making in the public interest, supported by professional expertise.
- Ensure an environment of equity and respect for each oral health profession through the governance and structure of the OHPR in a manner consistent with the public interest.
- Establish a culture where the board, committee members and staff are engaged as respected partners in regulation.

# What are the goals of the Amalgamation?

- Create an environment for its workforce that embraces diversity, expertise, evidence, and public facing service where all team members are valued.
- Maintain and support the distinct identity, scope of practice and unique contributions of each OHP.
- Build and maintain trustworthiness in all of its regulatory functions through a relentless focus on patient and public safety.
- Enhance collaboration and improve care through shared practice standards that promote consistency and interprofessional practice.
- Deliver efficient, cost-effective, expert regulation of the OHPs through combined resources, capacity, experience, and expertise.
- Reduce complexity through a single point of contact.

# How will the amalgamation change the practice of oral healthcare providers in B.C.?

There will be no change to your day-to-day practice as an oral health professional.

Your distinct identity, scope of practice and unique contributions to the health of the patients you treat will be maintained and unchanged.



# How will the Board of the new college be chosen?

Should the new college be enacted under the existing *Health Professions Act*, the first board of the new single oral health regulator will be appointed by the Minister of Health.

Future boards will be determined in compliance with the bylaws of the new oral health professional regulator and the governing legislation.



# We want to hear from registrants

We want to better understand your perceptions and understanding of the amalgamation. Small group meetings will be held online in February. Led by an independent facilitator, these meetings provide the opportunity for registrants to engage in a discussion about:

- the challenges and opportunities of forming a single regulator for oral health professionals, and
- the impacts of amalgamation on you as a registrant.

There will be separate meetings for each category of oral health care professional. Meeting participants are eligible for two CE credits.

Input gathered from these meetings will then be used to develop an on-line survey that will be sent to all registrants of the four colleges.

A summary report will be shared with the four oral health colleges including the Transition Steering Committee and all information will be carefully considered as we move forward in this process.

# Topics

We will be seeking your understanding, perception and views on a number of topics related to the creation of the single oral health regulator, including:

- mandate, roles and responsibilities;
- board composition;
- board roles and responsibilities (governance);
- Committee structure and professional expertise
- Distinction between the regulator and professional associations;
- Communication and engagement during the amalgamation process;
- Transparency and accountability;
- Ensuring culturally safe health care, performance monitoring of cultural safety in health care, and cultural safety in complaints processes; and
- Indigenous representation in the professions and in college leadership.

# Topics

We are seeking a balance of perspectives from around the province; to include different levels of experience, different types of practice, and geographic and cultural diversity to participate in focused online group meetings.

As these are small group meetings there are a limited number of seats to ensure meaningful dialogue; however, the initial discussions of these small groups will inform an upcoming survey of all registrants.

**If you would like to participate in one of our small group meetings in February, please express your interest by filling out the form at <https://analytics-ca.clickdimensions.com/cn/aoixp/amalgamationform>**

If you don't participate in a small group meeting, please watch for our survey, which will be sent to all registrants of all four colleges in April.

# Oral Health Regulator Amalgamation

