

Educational Requirements and Practice Standards
Approved by the Denturist Licensing Board
On October 30th, 2019

IMPLANT RETAINED/TISSUE SUPPORTED and
IMPLANT BAR SUPPORTED DENTURES

DEFINITIONS:

“accredited denturism education program” means a program approved by the board that qualifies an individual for registration as denturist in Nova Scotia;

“implant abutment” means a separate component attached to a dental implant that serves to support and/or retain a patient-removable denture;

“implant bar supported denture” means a patient-removable denture attached to an implant bar that may or may not be also supported by tissue;

“implant retained/tissue supported denture” means a patient-removable denture attached to one or more implant abutments that is also supported by tissue;

"implant services" means the making, producing, reproducing, constructing, furnishing, supplying, relining, rebasing, altering, adding to and repairing of any patient-removable denture, where the denture is an implant bar supported denture or an implant retained/tissue supported denture;

"implant team" means all oral health care providers involved in the provision of implant services, including a dentist;

“patient-removable denture” means a denture designed to be removed by the wearer, that replaces one or more natural teeth with artificial teeth and includes removable dentures that replace all teeth or removable partial dentures that use clasps to gain retention from remaining natural teeth, but it does not include appliances that do not replace oral structures and are worn by a patient in a course of treatment of a disease or an abnormal condition;

“precision dentures” means those dentures utilizing quality denture teeth and acrylic, that require border molded final impressions in customized trays, where the bite registration/occlusal records must include a facebow transfer and use of a semi adjustable articulator, and where the centric relation may be determined by either pin tracer or bite block technique.

BACKGROUND

This document sets out the educational requirements and practice standards for denturists engaged in implant services. The educational requirements set out in this document are the minimum

requirements a denturist must meet in order to be viewed as competent to engage in implant services.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Prior to engaging in any aspect of implant services, denturists must successfully complete a comprehensive educational program approved by the Board, where the Board is satisfied that the education includes sufficient academic and clinical teaching and experience to prepare the denturist to engage in this practice. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such program must consist of the following elements:

- (a) conducted by persons who have had formal training and experience performing implant services and procedures;
- (b) have a participation component (hands on);
- (c) have a duration of not less than one full day of instruction for each of the surgical prosthodontics and laboratory stages, where each stage has didactic and clinical teaching;
- (d) has a duration equivalent to not less than three full days of instruction on precision dentures including instructor demonstration on patient (clinical), lectures, and hands on component on patient with facebow, and requiring a set-up of full dentures;
- (e) address the risks and complications of implant retained/tissue supported or implant bar supported dentures in the maxilla or mandible.

Accredited educational programs that include a component on implant services in their curriculum that meets the above requirements, will be considered a comprehensive education program for purposes of the Board. For denturists who graduated from accredited educational programs prior to such programs including a component on implant services, the comprehensive educational program approved by the Board must include the components outlined above and may be taken as a separate course outside of an accredited educational program.

The education program described above is mandatory prior to engaging in implant services, and in addition it is recommended that denturists complete a recognized Radiographic Pattern Recognition Course in order to communicate effectively with the implant team.

PRACTICE STANDARDS

1. Need for Collaboration with Implant Team

Denturists must work in a cooperative and collaborative way with all members of the Implant Team, recognizing that the dentist member of the Implant Team is the primary care provider to manage the oral health condition of the patient. Denturists must communicate this to individuals for whom they provide implant service and update the primary care dentist regarding the services they provide to patients.

2. Work within Individual Scope of Practice

In addition to working within the definition of “denturism” set out in the *Denturists Act*, the denturist must work within his or her individual scope of practice that will be determined by their own knowledge, experience, education and training. The denturist must have adequate knowledge of the principles of the osteointegrating process and appropriate knowledge of the prosthetic stages of treatment prior to engaging in implant services. Working within the denturist’s individual scope of practice requires denturists to have the appropriate education to engage in implant services, and the appropriate experience for the particular implant service involved. Denturists must therefore have completed any educational prerequisites set by the Board prior to engaging in implant services and acquired sufficient experience to render them competent for any aspect of implant services they are undertaking.

For clarity, the placement and/or removal of implant abutments is not within the scope of practice of a denturist.

3. Standard of Care

The denturist (as a member of the Implant Team) must perform all of the prosthetic procedures required for the construction of the implant bar supported or implant retained/tissue supported denture in accordance with all of the appropriate and reasonable protocols established by the Implant Team, and in a reasonable and prudent manner.

4. Records

Denturists must record all treatments and services in the patient’s record. Such records should include:

- (i) Names of the members of the Implant Team;
- (ii) Documentation that “informed consent” was received after an adequate oral and/or written explanation of the treatment plan, prognosis and risk;
- (iii) Copies of all related correspondence;
- (iv) Prosthodontics notes which should include the prosthodontics procedures performed as well as the following information about the implant.
 - (a) Manufacturer;
 - (b) Number and location;
 - (c) Size and type;
 - (d) Size and type of implant abutment used;
 - (e) Type of denture fabricated;
 - (f) Type of connection/component; and
 - (g) Confirmation that all components were placed in the patient’s mouth.

5. Referrals

The dentist must recognize the need to refer the patient to other dental implant team members on the first signs of abnormalities or complications arising post-surgically.

6. Approval of Components

It is the responsibility of the dentist to use components which have been approved by the Health Protection Branch of Health and Welfare Canada, or its successor.

REQUIREMENT FOR CONSULTATION

These Educational Requirements and Practice Standards approved by the Board for implant bar supported or implant retained/tissue supported dentures have been reviewed in consultation with the Nova Scotia Dental Association and the Provincial Dental Board. Prior to making any changes to the education requirements and practice standards, the Dentist Licensing Board agrees to consult with these organizations and all other relevant stakeholders.