



College of Dental Technologists of Ontario
Ordre des Technologues Dentaires de l'Ontario

Governance Education Modules

MODULE 1: HEALTH PROFESSION REGULATION

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Completion of this module will provide you with an understanding of:

- How health professions are regulated within Ontario
- *The Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* and its role
- The legislation and regulations that govern dental technology in Ontario



Healthcare in Canada



- ▶ Health system delivery is the responsibility of individual provinces and territories
- ▶ In Canada, healthcare is a right entitled to residents as described under the *Canada Health Act, 1985*
- ▶ The *Canada Health Act, 1985* describes healthcare policy as the duty to:
“to protect, promote and restore the physical and mental well-being of residents of Canada and to facilitate reasonable access to health services without financial or other barriers.” – *The Canada Health Act, 1985, c6 s. 3*



Health Profession Legislation



Legislative
Assembly
of Ontario

- ▶ Health professionals and the care they provide are governed under provincial legislation called “Acts”
- ▶ An Act is provincial law that has been passed by the Legislative Assembly of that province

This legislation includes:

The Regulated Health Professions Act (The RHPA)

Schedule 1 of the RHPA: Self Governing Health Professions

Schedule 2 of the RHPA: The Health Professions Procedural Code

Profession-Specific Acts (e.g. *The Dental Technology Act, 1991*)

ACTS



The Regulated Health Professions Act

In Ontario, the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA) provides a common legislative framework for all health professions recognized under it



Purpose of the RHPA

The purpose of the RHPA is to serve and protect the public interest. It does so by providing:

- A framework for the regulation of health professionals
- Mechanisms to improve quality of care
- Consumers with freedom of choice in healthcare providers
- An open and accountable system of self governance



The RHPA Schedule 2: The Health Professions Procedural Code

▶ Schedule 2 is a component of the RHPA that sets out the practical rules of procedure for all regulatory health colleges concerning:

- Registration processes
- Handling complaints
- Conducting investigations
- Discipline hearings
- Fitness to practice hearings
- Quality assurance program
- Patient relations program
- Mandatory reporting
- Funding for victims of sexual abuse by registrants
- Appeal processes regarding registration and complaint decisions



Protecting Patients Act, 2017

Made important changes to the RHPA to:

- ▶ Strengthen the prevention of and response to incidents of patient sexual abuse
- ▶ Increase support for victims of sexual abuse by regulated health professionals
- ▶ Improve regulatory oversight and accountability of health regulatory colleges

Changes included:

- ▶ Expanding the definition of a patient to include those who ceased to be a patient within the last year
- ▶ Prohibiting gender-based terms, conditions or limitations (e.g., only practising on male patients)
- ▶ Funding for therapy and counselling is now available at the time a complaint is filed



Self Regulation

- ▶ Health profession regulation in Ontario is a form of **self-regulation**. This means that the authority of governing the profession is allocated to the profession itself
- ▶ In order to effectively self-regulate, direction and leadership within the governing bodies must **prioritize public interest over the profession's interest**
- ▶ Under the self-regulating model, the profession bears the cost of regulation through registrant fees



Self Governing Health Professions

SCHEDULE 1 SELF GOVERNING HEALTH PROFESSIONS

| <i>Health Profession Acts</i> | <i>Health Profession</i> |
|--|--|
| Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Act, 1991 | Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology |
| Chiropractic Act, 1991 | Chiropractic |
| Chiropractic Act, 1991 | Chiropractic |
| Dental Hygiene Act, 1991 | Dental Hygiene |
| Dental Technology Act, 1991 | Dental Technology |
| Dentistry Act, 1991 | Dentistry |
| Denturism Act, 1991 | Denturism |
| Dietetics Act, 1991 | Dietetics |
| Homeopathy Act, 2007 | Homeopathy |
| Kinesiology Act, 2007 | Kinesiology |
| Massage Therapy Act, 1991 | Massage Therapy |
| Medical Laboratory Technology Act, 1991 | Medical Laboratory Technology |
| Medical Radiation and Imaging Technology Act, 2017 | Medical Radiation and Imaging Technology |
| Medicine Act, 1991 | Medicine |
| Midwifery Act, 1991 | Midwifery |
| Naturopathy Act, 2007 | Naturopathy |
| Nursing Act, 1991 | Nursing |
| Occupational Therapy Act, 1991 | Occupational Therapy |
| Opticianry Act, 1991 | Opticianry |
| Optometry Act, 1991 | Optometry |
| Pharmacy Act, 1991 | Pharmacy |
| Physiotherapy Act, 1991 | Physiotherapy |
| Psychology Act, 1991 | Psychology |
| Psychotherapy Act, 2007 | Psychotherapy |
| Respiratory Therapy Act, 1991 | Respiratory Therapy |
| Traditional Chinese Medicine Act, 2006 | Traditional Chinese Medicine |

Each regulated health profession is identified under Schedule 1 of the RHPA



Dental Technology Act, 1991

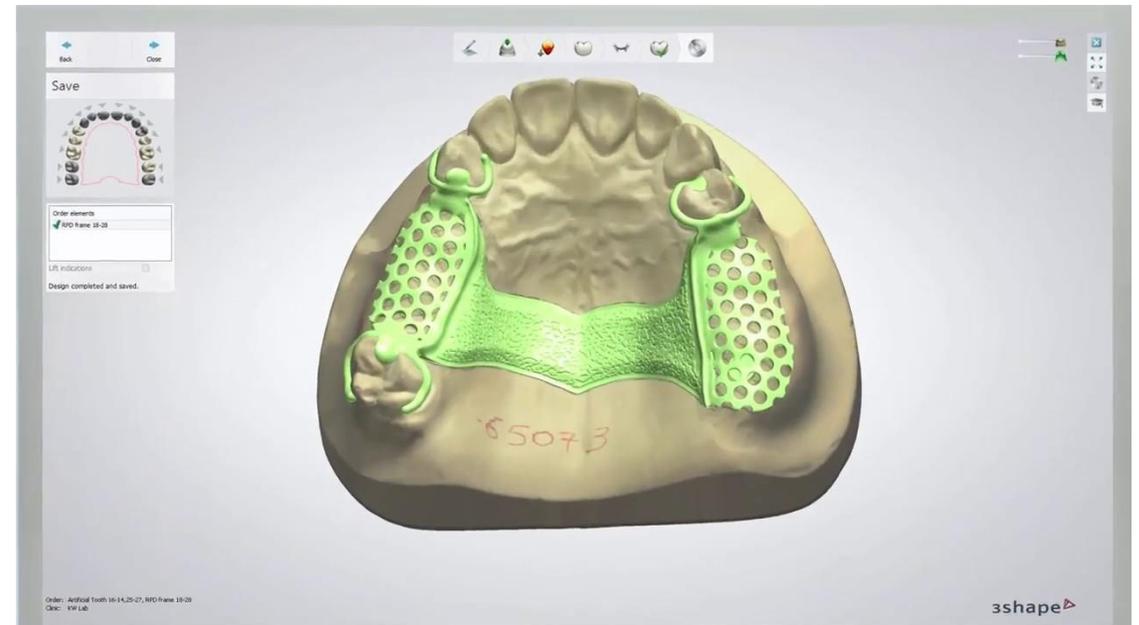
- ▶ Under the *Dental Technology Act, 1991* dental technology became a regulated health profession in Ontario
- ▶ The provisions specific to dental technology are addressed in the *Dental Technology Act, 1991* and its regulations



Dental Technology Scope of Practice

- ▶ The scope of practice is defined in the *Dental Technology Act, 1991* as:

“The practice of dental technology is the design, construction, repair or alteration of dental prosthetic, restorative and orthodontic devices.” - Dental Technology Act, 1991, c. 23, s. 3.



Controlled Acts

- ▶ The RHPA defines 14 activities (“Controlled Acts”) considered to have a high risk of harm to the general public if not performed by professionals who are qualified to do so
- ▶ Each profession has a scope of practice, but only some professions are able to perform controlled acts. (e.g., dentists, nurses, physicians)
- ▶ **Registered Dental Technologists (RDTs) are not authorized to perform any controlled acts**



Title Protection

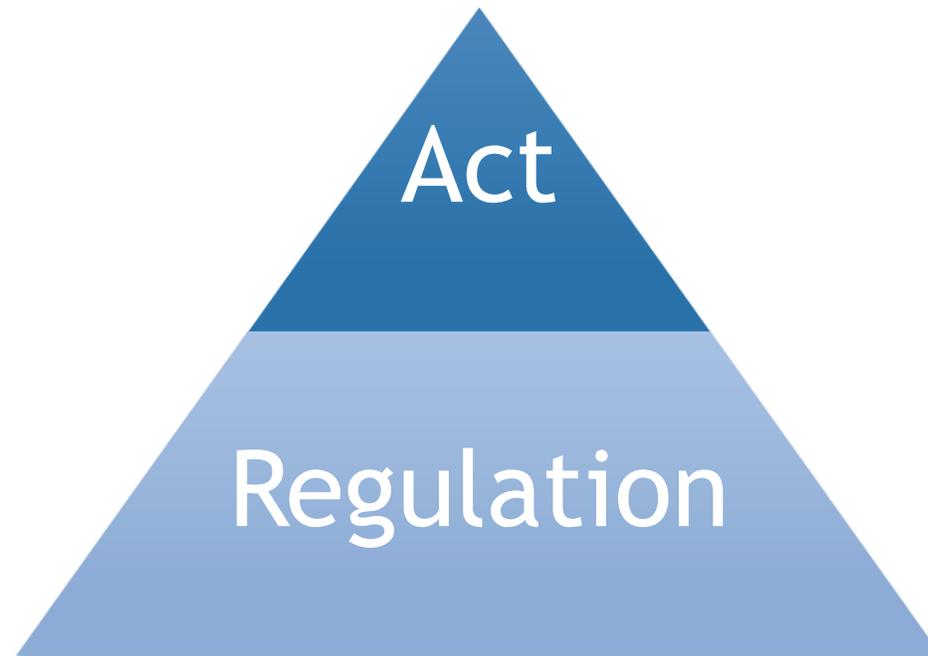
- ▶ Only registrants of a regulatory health college can use its restricted title.
- ▶ Under the *Dental Technology Act, 1991*:

No person other than a registrant of the College of Dental Technologists of Ontario shall use the title “dental technologist”, nor can they hold themselves out as someone who is qualified to practise dental technology, or in a specialty of dental technology



Regulations

- ▶ Under the *Dental Technology Act, 1991* additional laws termed “regulations” exist, which contribute to the regulation of the dental technology profession
- ▶ The regulations that fall under the *Dental Technology Act, 1991* are:
 - General
 - Registration
 - Professional Misconduct
 - Examinations



General Regulation

The General Regulation under the *Dental Technology Act, 1991* is divided into **3** subjects:

- 1. Quality Assurance:** Outlines the components of the Quality Assurance Program for Dental Technologists. RDTs are required to participate in the program, which is intended to keep RDTs engaged with improving knowledge, skills, and competency
- 2. Advertisements:** Outlines the conditions of an advertisement with respect to a member's practice
- 3. Notice of Meetings and Hearings:** Outlines the Registrar's duty to publish notice of meetings and hearings



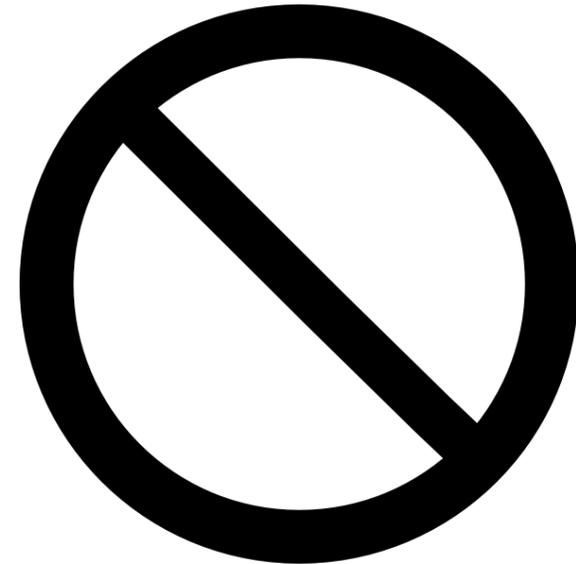
Registration Regulation

The Registration Regulation outlines the minimum requirements for initial and ongoing registration as a dental technologist



Professional Misconduct Regulation

- ▶ The Professional Misconduct Regulation is a comprehensive list of acts that **must be avoided**
- ▶ Engaging in these listed activities may constitute professional misconduct
 - For example, failing to maintain a standard of practice of the profession



Examination Regulation



- ▶ Ensures that CDTO examinations are a reliable and valid measure of a candidate's competency in knowledge, skills and ability for the practice of dental technology in Ontario
- ▶ Outlines the general rules pertaining to the amount of times an applicant may take an exam



End of Module 1

Great! You completed Module 1 of 3 of our Governance Education Modules.

Next Steps:

1. Complete the [Module 1 Quiz](#)

- The quiz will take approximately 10 minutes. Results will automatically be sent to CDTO. This component is an eligibility requirement for elections on Council.

2. Proceed to Module 2: Health Regulatory Colleges

