

HEALTH PROFESSIONS LICENSING AUTHORITY
TITLE: Code of Practice for Dental Prosthetists
EFFECTIVE DATE: April 2008
NEXT SCHEDULED REVIEW: April 2011
BOARD: Dental Board of the Northern Territory

Purpose

This code of practice has been developed, pursuant to the *Health Practitioners Act 2004*, to provide a framework for the practice of dentistry by Dental Prosthetists.

Review

This code of practice will be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure it accords with legislation, national and international standards and any relevant developments in the provision of dental care.

Scope of Practice

A Dental Prosthetist with current registration may work as a practitioner in making, fitting, supplying and repairing removable full, partial dentures and flexible, removable mouthguards.

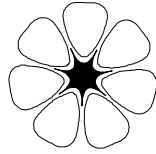
In order to ensure public safety and optimal treatment outcomes, Dental Prosthetists should work only on a written prescription of a Dentist, when making partial dentures.

Prior to making any dentures, a Dental Prosthetist must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the patients mouth is fit for the purpose, and free of disease, disorder and disability. Prosthetists have a responsibility to refer patients to a Dentist if the clinical situation warrants it.

Dental Prosthetists may only perform those dental procedures:

1. for which they have been formally educated, in courses approved by the Board; and
2. in which they are competent.

A Dental Prosthetist may not adjust, modify or alter any natural teeth in any way, nor may they remove, or replace or adjust any implant or abutment component.



Requirements

Registered Dental Prosthetists must possess the competencies set out in the Advanced Diploma of Dental Prosthetics accredited, under the Health Training Package, by the Australian National Training Authority and have successfully completed a course of study approved by the Board as appropriate for registration as a Dental Prosthetist.

In assessing the level of competence, particularly in the case of applicants who have been out of the workforce for some time, the Board may take into account such matters as education, acquired skills, recency of practice and continuing professional development.

Responsibilities

Dental Prosthetists have responsibility for the treatment they provide to patients. Dental Prosthetists must ensure they practice dentistry with the level and type of support appropriate to the clinical circumstances and needs of their patients and that they refer patients to a dentist if the clinical situation necessitates this.