



# College of Alberta Dental Assistants

166-14315 118 Ave NW  
Edmonton AB T5L 4S6

780-486-2526  
1-800-355-8940  
780-486-2728 fax

www.abrda.ca

## Position Statement

### The Independent Performance of Non-Restricted Dental Assisting Activities

The College of Alberta Dental Assistants will not support a current registered dental assistant, or anyone claiming to be trained as a dental assistant and using the dental assisting titles protected under the *Health Professions Act* of Alberta, who is working independently and providing any or all dental services such as:

- teeth whitening
- fitting and adjusting athletic mouth protection appliances
- fitting or adjusting oral sleep or bite aids
- preparation of tooth surface(s) for application of “tooth jewellery”

All of the above activities are best performed under clinical conditions by the full dental health team of which a dental assistant is a critical component and who, with proper training and supervision, is very capable of providing the foregoing services.

### Rationale

The profession of dental assisting is currently limited to a properly trained and registered practitioner working in support of dentists, dental hygienists, and/or denturists by providing dental assisting services based on the direction or supervision of the other dental professionals. Registered Dental Assistants, in accordance with their Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics, may not diagnose a condition nor prescribe a treatment, remedy, or service.

The College of Alberta Dental Assistants is aware of an increasing number of independent services emerging to provide some or all of the above-noted services. The College is not aware of any Registered Dental Assistants providing these services under the protected title and independently. However, as there are a number of these quasi-clinical services emerging, it is important that the profession and the public know that despite being trained to engage in these activities when properly diagnosed and prescribed, a Registered Dental Assistant (or a dental assistant previously trained and not currently registered), may not provide these services independently.

The College of Alberta Dental Assistants would consider it a breach of professional practice for a registered or previously registered dental assistant to suggest or infer that his or her training and experience as a dental assistant qualifies him or her to provide any of the noted services as an independent contractor. Any member of the public served under these circumstances is encouraged to contact the College of Alberta Dental Assistants to report this activity.