

MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT FOR PURPOSES OF LABOUR MOBILITY - DENTAL ASSISTING

The consensus statements that follow have been agreed to in principle by the registrars of Dental Assisting Regulatory Authorities across Canada as applicable to Level II, Intra Oral Dental Assisting.

Whereas:

It is understood and agreed that this Agreement applies only to Canadian Provinces and/or Territories that regulate Dental Assisting;

Dental Assisting Regulatory Authority is hereinafter referred to as DARA;

DARAs support the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC) dental assisting program accreditation process;

DARAs encourage all dental assisting programs to become CDAC accredited;

DARAs support the National Dental Assisting Examining Board (NDAEB);

DARAs recognize that each DARA carries out its licensing/listing/certification/registration practices in good faith;

The requirements for initial licensure/listing/certification/registration are the responsibilities of the individual DARAs;

Good standing refers to the status of a person who is currently licenced to practice in a signatory jurisdiction and whose licensure is not encumbered or restricted in any way in any jurisdiction and more specifically is not subject to a discipline order, investigation or ongoing agreement;

Practice as a Level II Dental Assistant over the preceding three years will be demonstrated should any jurisdiction require currency in practice;

There are no residency requirements for licensure/listing/certification/registration of dental assistants in any jurisdiction in Canada; and

For the purpose of this Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) the terms licensure/listing/certification/registration shall be herein after referred to as "licensure".

We, the undersigned agree:

- 1) Implementation of the provisions of the MRA will occur on or before April 1, 2009 subject to necessary provincial/territorial legislative changes.
- 2) For the purpose of Canadian inter-jurisdictional mobility, a dental assistant candidate for licensure will have successfully completed training consistent with the domain description for dental assisting in Canada.

- 3) Initial Licensure:
 - 1) For initial licensure, graduates from CDAC accredited dental assisting programs will require the NDAEB Written Certificate. [Other provincial administrative measures for initial licensure may apply, e.g. criminal records check];
 - 2) For initial licensure, graduates from non-accredited dental assisting programs will require the NDAEB Written Certificate and the NDAEB Clinical Practice Evaluation (CPE) or retraining at a CDAC accredited institute in lieu of the CPE [Other provincial administrative measures for initial licensure may apply, e.g. criminal records check].
- 4) The domain description includes chairside assisting and core skills that represent the minimum standard for dental assistants as defined by the CDAC and the NDAEB. The following core competencies represent a high degree of commonality as defined in Chapter Seven of the *Agreement on Internal Trade*. The domain description for a licensed dental assistant includes chairside assisting and the following competencies:
 - 1) Producing Dental Radiographs
 - 2) Application and Removal of Rubber Dam
 - 3) Take Preliminary Impressions for Study Casts
 - 4) Application of Treatment Liners where there is no Pulpal Involvement
 - 5) Application and Removal of Matrices and Wedges
 - 6) Selective Rubber Cup Polishing
 - 7) Oral Hygiene Instruction
 - 8) Dietary Counseling Relative to Oral Health
 - 9) Application of Anticariogenic Agents
 - 10) Fabricate and insert bleaching trays
 - 11) Pit & fissure sealants
 - 12) Topical anesthetic
 - 13) Desensitizing agents
- 5) Eligibility For Inter-provincial Mobility:
 - 1) For the purposes of inter-provincial mobility all jurisdictions will recognize without further examination and training for licensure in chairside assisting and core skills 1 through 9 a dental assistant licensed in good standing in another Canadian jurisdiction graduating prior to January 1, 2007.
 - 2) For the purposes of inter-provincial mobility all jurisdictions will recognize without further examination and training for licensure in chairside assisting and core skills 1 through 13, a dental assistant licensed in good standing in another Canadian jurisdiction graduating on or after January 1, 2007.
- 6) Since some jurisdictions have additional mandatory skills beyond the core competencies listed in Clause 4, a DARA that requires upgrading for additional mandatory skills in their jurisdiction will provide mechanisms (e.g. restricted licensure) to allow practice while upgrading.
- 7) As posted on the DARA website, an applicant may be required to meet other requirements as a condition of licensure, such as:
 - 1) Satisfying the DARA that he/she is in good standing in all jurisdictions where he/she holds or has held licensure;
 - 2) Satisfying the DARA that he/she has complied with the continuing competency/quality assurance requirements of the jurisdiction(s), if any, where he/she currently holds licensure;
 - 3) Payment of fees;


- 4) Satisfying the DARA that the applicant's past and present conduct affords reasonable grounds for the belief that the applicant;
 - i) Is mentally competent and physically able to safely practice dental assisting;
 - ii) Will practice dental assisting ethically and in accordance with the law;
 - iii) has sufficient knowledge, skill and judgment to competently engage in the kind of dental assisting practice authorized by the licence for which he/she is applying; and
 - iv) Can communicate effectively and will display an appropriate professional attitude.
8. The signatories of this MRA acknowledge that this is an evolving document. We, the undersigned, agree to review the Agreement every three years or at the request of one or more signatories.
9. Any changes to occupational standards, licensing or legislative requirements such as examination development, mutual recognition practices, accreditation standards, or additional jurisdictions regulating dental assistants that may impact the Agreement will be communicated in writing to all signatories and to the LMCG representatives to provide them with an opportunity to review and comment prior to implementation.
10. DARAs agree to invite non-regulated jurisdiction representatives to future meetings and that the LMCG representatives will be invited to discuss labour mobility matters as appropriate.
11. DARAs agree to abide by this Mutual Recognition Agreement among Provincial and Territorial regulators and will seek action in our respective jurisdictions to make necessary legislative (statutory), regulatory and by-law amendments to give effect to the terms of this Agreement.
12. Each signatory will give written notice to its legislating government and to their LMCG representatives and to other signatories of its intent to withdraw from this agreement at least 12 months before the signatory withdraws or at the earliest possible opportunity. The withdrawal will take effect 12 months after the notification. The notice period is waived where the withdrawal is not within the DARA's control.

Signed this 23 day of October, 2008


Signatories to the Agreement:


for College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia

Lami Brodie - Bartko
for College of Alberta Dental Assistants


for Saskatchewan Dental Assistants' Association

Marcelle Van Loon
for Manitoba Dental Association


for New Brunswick Dental Society

Walt Mac Innis
for Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia


for Dental Council of Prince Edward Island


for Newfoundland Dental Board

**Attachment #2
Flow Chart**

