

Board of Denture Technology

The **Board Denture of Technology** consists of seven members appointed by the governor: four denturists, one dentist and two public members. Terms in office are three years beginning July 1, with an appointee eligible to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

Denturist and dentist board members provide profession-specific expertise. Public members provide a consumer's perspective.

OHLA

The **Oregon Health Licensing Agency** (OHLA) is a state department of licensing and regulation. OHLA is unique among Oregon's regulatory agencies — it oversees multiple professions under a central agency administration.

For more information, visit our Web site at www.oregon.gov/OHLA.

Consumer Protection

If you can't resolve a problem or issue with a practitioner or business, you may file a complaint.

Contact OHLA at **(503) 378-8667**, ext. 4314 or e-mail us at ohla.info@state.or.us. We respond to every complaint and have the authority to take disciplinary action against practitioners and businesses.

Consumer's Bill of Rights

Consumers receiving services by Oregon professionals licensed, certified or registered by the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) have a legal right to:

- ✦ Receive competent professional services
- ✦ Verify the names, titles and credentials of professionals providing services
- ✦ Receive clear explanations of the services offered and cost for the services
- ✦ Refuse any services offered
- ✦ Receive information on complaints that have resulted in final action
- ✦ File a complaint with OHLA regarding a practitioner, facility, or an unlicensed/uncertified person
- ✦ Request reasonable accommodations to access professional services as outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act
- ✦ Be treated with courtesy and respect
- ✦ Have service options and consequences explained

OREGON HEALTH LICENSING AGENCY
700 Summer Street NE, Suite 320
Salem, OR 97301-1287

503-378-8667 **Main** • 503-585-9114 **FAX**
503-373-2114 **TTY**

E-mail ohla.info@state.or.us
Web site www.oregon.gov/OHLA

Board of Denture Technology



DENTURISTS

Consumer Information



OREGON
HEALTH
LICENSING
AGENCY

DENTURISTS

Licensed Denturists

Denturists are licensed in Oregon to provide full or partial “prosthetic dental appliances,” better known as dentures.

Denturists construct, repair, reline, reproduce, duplicate, supply and fit dentures. Denturists also take impressions, bite registrations, try-ins and insertions.

Qualifications

Denturists complete at least an associate-level degree program in denture technology or the equivalent in formal, post-secondary education.

Denturists also complete at least 1,000 hours of supervised training and pass both a state-administered written and practical examination.

Denturists are required to complete at least 30 hours of continuing education every three years to remain licensed.

Practice Standards

Denturists must adhere to practice standards established for “acceptable patient care.” For example, denturists must conduct and record oral conditions that may affect successful denture construction and use. They must also inform patients of the procedures, alternatives and risks involved.

Denturist or Dentist?

Q: I think I may need dentures. Should I go to a denturist or dentist?

A: You may go to either professional. Both are allowed to provide full and partial dentures.

Denturists specialize in providing full and partial denture services. But they are not allowed to provide the full range of dental services that dentists provide. A dentist holds a medical degree in dentistry and practices under a license issued by the Oregon Board of Dentistry.

Referral Needed?

Q: Do I need referral from my dentist to get dentures from a denturist?

A: Not if your denturist has an “oral pathology” endorsement. Almost all Oregon denturists have the endorsement.

The handful of Oregon denturists who don’t have an oral pathology endorsement are required to receive an Oral Health Certificate signed by a dentist or medical doctor. The certificate must state that the patient’s mouth is free of disease and able to accept a denture.



Partial Dentures?

Q: Can denturists install partial dentures?

A: Yes. In conjunction with appropriate dental care from a dentist for your natural teeth, denturists may fit partial dentures. Partial dentures are fitted when some of your natural teeth remain, compared to full dentures, which consist of an entire set of both lower and upper dentures when none of your natural teeth remain.

Clinical Requirements

Disposable gloves: Denturists must wear disposable gloves whenever placing fingers into the mouth of a patient or when handling blood or saliva contaminated instruments or equipment. Hands must be washed and re-gloved before performing procedures on another patient.

Instrument sterilization: Denturists must sterilize instruments, implements, supplies and impression trays used in intra-oral procedures that come in contact with body fluids prior to each use.

Infection control: Denturists must perform all procedures in such a manner as to avoid cross contamination of blood borne pathogens.

Surface disinfection: Denturists must use a high-level disinfectant or bleach solution to clean surfaces contaminated with blood or saliva.