

General Consultation: Draft *Foundations of Professionalism*

Welcome to Our Survey

The Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario (RCDSO) is seeking feedback on a newly developed draft *Foundations of Professionalism* document, which describes the core principles and duties of the profession.

This document:

- is being developed as part of the Access to Care Strategic Project by a Working Group (comprised of RCDSO Council, representatives from each Ontario faculty of dentistry, and subject matter experts);
- will replace RCDSO's *Code of Ethics*; and
- will serve as a foundation for all Standards of Practice and other resources that guide dentists' conduct.

The survey should take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.

Survey responses are saved when you click the 'Next' button and submitted when you click the 'Done' button. You may complete part of the survey and return later to edit your responses or finish the survey if you are using the same device and web browser that you used to start the survey.

The deadline to provide feedback is May 30, 2025.

All responses will be reviewed and a summary of the feedback will be provided to RCDSO's Council after the consultation closes. Your feedback is anonymous. Responses submitted from individuals on behalf of organizations will be attributed to the organization and not the individual.

If you would like to download a PDF list of the survey questions, click [here](#).

If you have any questions about RCDSO's Standards review and development process or this survey, please see RCDSO's [website](#) or email the Policy Team at accesstocare@rcdso.org.

General Consultation: Draft *Foundations of Professionalism*

Participant Type

To ensure that we ask you relevant questions, we have developed different question sets for different respondents. Please choose the option that best reflects the perspective you will bring to this survey.

* 1. Are you a:

- General dentist (including retired)
- Specialist dentist (including retired)
- Dental student
- Patient/Member of the public
- Oral health care professional, other than dentist (e.g., dental hygienist, denturist, dental technician, including retired)
- Non-oral health care professional (e.g., nurse, doctor, pharmacist, etc., including retired)
- Person responding on behalf of an organization
- I prefer not to answer

General Consultation: Draft *Foundations of Professionalism*

Specialist Type

* 2. What is your primary specialty or, if you have retired, what was your primary specialty?

- Dental Anesthesiology
- Dental Public Health
- Endodontology
- Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- Oral Medicine and/or Oral Pathology
- Orthodontics and Orthopedics
- Pediatrics
- Periodontics
- Prosthodontics
- Other (please specify)

- I prefer not to answer

General Consultation: Draft *Foundations of Professionalism*

Dentist Characteristics

If you have retired, please respond to the questions on this page based on your experience when you were practicing.

* 3. Where did you complete your highest level of dental education?

- Canada
- Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, or United States of America (countries that have a mutually recognized system of accreditation of training with the RCDSO)
- Other (please specify)
- I prefer not to answer

* 4. How many years have you been in practice?

- 0-10 years
- 11-25 years
- 26+ years
- I prefer not to answer

* 5. What is your primary practice environment?

- Solo private dental clinic (one or more locations with one dentist)
- Group private dental clinic (one or more locations with more than one dentist)
- Corporate dental clinic (practice with some degree of third-party ownership and/or business support)
- Not-for-profit dental clinic (e.g., public health, community health centre, hospital, school, community-based)
- Other (please specify)
- I prefer not to answer

* 6. We would like to know more about your role(s) in your practice. Which of the following best describes your primary role(s) in dentistry? Please select all that apply.

- Owner/Principal
- Associate/Independent Contractor
- Employee
- Clinic/Practice Manager (either formally or informally)
- Other (please specify)

- I prefer not to answer

* 7. Describe the general location(s) where you work or practice. Please select all that apply.

- Extra-large urban area (population of 500,000 or more)
- Large urban area (population between 100,000 and 499,999)
- Medium urban area (population between 30,000 and 99,999)
- Small urban area (population between 1,000 and 29,999)
- Rural and/or remote (population less than 1,000)
- Other (please specify)

- I prefer not to answer

* 8. Do you currently provide clinical care?

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to answer

General Consultation: Draft *Foundations of Professionalism*

Organization Type

* 9. Which organization are you responding on behalf of?

* 10. What type of organization do you represent?

- Dentist-facing organization (e.g., dental office, dental corporation, vendor in dental industry, professional association)
- Patient-facing organization (e.g. advocacy group for patients)
- Other (please specify)

- I prefer not to answer

Introduction

The draft *Foundations of Professionalism* document reflects the individual and collective commitments to professionalism that dentists demonstrate throughout their careers. This document:

- describes the core principles and duties that dentists demonstrate when managing the oral health care needs of individuals and communities, and when promoting good oral health for all;
- organizes the content by the classic bioethical principles of patient autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence, and justice;
- gives examples of how dentists can apply each principle in practice;
- helps dentists navigate the ethical challenges that arise in practice; and
- helps dentists achieve the highest possible level of confidence and trust from patients and society.

The following questions will ask you about the draft document.

General Consultation: Draft *Foundations of Professionalism*

Key Elements of Professionalism

The draft document describes the key elements of professionalism that form the basis of the principles and duties set out in the document.

Please review each of these elements and indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with whether they are easy to understand and important.

* 11. Acting in the best interests of patients and society.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know
This element is easy to understand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This element is important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 12. Complying with the duties assigned to health care professionals through fiduciary law (e.g., acting in patients' best interests, avoiding conflicts of interest, and acting with integrity, loyalty, honesty, trustworthiness, and the utmost good faith).

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know
This element is easy to understand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This element is important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. **Optional:** Please elaborate on the answers you provided above. For instance, if you felt any of the above elements were not easy to understand or important, why not?

14. **Optional:** Are there any other key elements of professionalism that you think should form the basis of the principles and duties set out in the document?

* 18. Justice (to treat all people fairly and equitably).

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know
This principle is easy to understand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This principle is important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This principle is reasonable for dentists to apply in practice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

19. **Optional:** Please elaborate on the answers you provided above. For instance, if you felt any of the above principles were not easy to understand, important, or reasonable, why not? How could the principles be improved?

20. **Optional:** Are there any other principles you think should be included in the draft document?

General Consultation: Draft *Foundations of Professionalism*

Examples

The draft document contains examples of how dentists can meet each bioethical principle to illustrate how they can be applied in practice.

While this is not an exhaustive list, we would like feedback on the extent to which you think each example is easy to understand, important, and reasonable.

The draft document contains the following example of how dentists can meet the principle of *Patient Autonomy*.

* 21. Providing care that is responsive to patient needs, values, beliefs, goals, social identities, and economic circumstances.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know
This example is easy to understand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This example is important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This example is reasonable for dentists to apply in practice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

22. **Optional:** Please elaborate on the answers you provided above. For instance, if you felt the above example was not easy to understand, important, or reasonable, why not? How could the examples be improved?

26. **Optional:** Please elaborate on the answers you provided above. For instance, if you felt any of the above examples were not easy to understand, important, or reasonable, why not? How could the examples be improved?

General Consultation: Draft *Foundations of Professionalism*

Examples

The draft document contains the following examples of how dentists can meet the principle of *Nonmaleficence*.

* 27. Disclosing any harm that occurs as a result of their actions, decisions, judgement, or competence.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know
This example is easy to understand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This example is important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This example is reasonable for dentists to apply in practice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 28. Where a mandatory report is not required, raising concerns about inappropriate, unprofessional, or otherwise concerning behaviour of staff or colleagues directly with the person, or if needed, with the relevant leadership or authority.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know
This example is easy to understand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This example is important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This example is reasonable for dentists to apply in practice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

29. **Optional:** Please elaborate on the answers you provided above. For instance, if you felt any of the above examples were not easy to understand, important, or reasonable, why not? How could the examples be improved?

* 33. Recognizing the unique opportunities and barriers created by each person's social identities (e.g., based on race, ethnicity, gender identity, disability) and taking reasonable steps to support each person.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know
This example is easy to understand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This example is important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This example is reasonable for dentists to apply in practice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 34. Participating in initiatives to reduce health inequities that are driven by the determinants of health.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know
This example is easy to understand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This example is important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This example is reasonable for dentists to apply in practice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

35. **Optional:** Please elaborate on the answers you provided above. For instance, if you felt any of the above examples were not easy to understand, important, or reasonable, why not? How could the examples be improved?

RCDSO

Royal College of
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

General Consultation: Draft *Foundations of Professionalism*

Review of draft *Foundations of Professionalism* document

The following questions will require you to have read the draft *Foundations of Professionalism* document. If you indicate that you have not read the draft document, you will be advanced to the final section of the survey.

If you have not read the draft document, you can review it [here](#).

* 36. Have you read the draft *Foundations of Professionalism* document?

Yes

No

General Consultation: Draft *Foundations of Professionalism*

Easy to Understand, Comprehensiveness, and Reasonableness

* 37. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know
The draft document is easy to understand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The draft document is comprehensive (it addresses all relevant or important issues)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The draft document is reasonable for dentists to apply in practice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

38. **Optional:** Please feel free to elaborate on your answers above. For instance, if you felt the draft document was not easy to understand, comprehensive, or reasonable, why not? How could the draft document be improved?

* 39. Do you think the draft document includes any unnecessary information?

- No
- Yes (please specify)

- I don't know

General Consultation: Draft *Foundations of Professionalism*

Best interests of patients in Ontario

* 40. Do you think that this draft document effectively serves the best interests of patients in Ontario?

Yes

No (please specify)

I don't know

General Consultation: Draft *Foundations of Professionalism*

Final Feedback

41. Please share with us any feedback that you have not already provided related to this draft *Foundations of Professionalism* document.

General Consultation: Draft *Foundations of Professionalism*

Survey Evaluation

42. **Optional:** Based on your experience completing this survey, do you have any feedback to help improve this survey or future RCDSO surveys?

General Consultation: Draft *Foundations of Professionalism*

Demographics

We welcome you to voluntarily share some demographic information about yourself. The RCDSO strives to protect the public interest while using processes that achieve meaningful equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility across all of our regulatory programs and projects.

Therefore, we are collecting demographic information to help us identify whether our consultation process is inclusive, and whether we are receiving a diversity of perspectives.

Please note that any demographic information that you provide through the survey will be anonymous, and your responses will be stored securely. Your demographic information will be aggregated for internal/external reporting purposes and will not be linked to you.

We encourage you to answer the following demographic questions, which are voluntary and anonymous.

* 43. Would you like to complete these demographic questions?

Yes

No

General Consultation: Draft *Foundations of Professionalism*

Demographics - Continued

* 44. What is the location of your primary residence?

- Ontario
- Outside of Canada
- Another province or territory in Canada (please specify)

- I prefer not to answer

* 45. Describe the general area where your primary residence is located?

- Extra-large urban area (population of 500,000 or more)
- Large urban area (population between 100,000 and 499,999)
- Medium urban area (population between 30,000 and 99,999)
- Small urban area (population between 1,000 and 29,999)
- Rural and/or remote (population less than 1,000)
- Other (please specify)

- I prefer not to answer

* 46. How old are you?

- 19 years old or under
- 20-29 years old
- 30-39 years old
- 40-49 years old
- 50-59 years old
- 60-69 years old
- 70+ years old
- I prefer not to answer

* 47. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school
- College degree/diploma
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Ph.D. or higher
- Dental degree (BDS/DDS/DMD or higher)
- Other professional degree (e.g., law, medicine, engineering)
- Trade school
- Other (please specify)

- I prefer not to answer

* 48. Please indicate which of the following terms best describes your gender identity. Please select all that apply (options are listed in alphabetical order - click [here](#) for definitions of the following terms):

- Genderqueer
- Man
- Nonbinary
- Questioning
- Two-Spirit
- Woman
- Other (please specify)

- I prefer not to answer

* 49. Do you identify as trans/transgender or consider yourself to be a part of a trans/transgender community?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- I prefer not to answer

* 50. Please indicate which of the following terms best describe your sexual orientation.

Check as many as apply (options are in alphabetical order).

- Asexual
- Bisexual
- Gay
- Heterosexual
- Lesbian
- Pansexual
- Queer
- Questioning
- Two-Spirit
- Other (please specify)
- I prefer not to answer

* 51. Do you identify as an Indigenous person? Please select all that apply.

- Yes, First Nations (Status and Non-Status)
- Yes, Métis
- Yes, Inuit
- Yes, an Indigenous person from outside of Canada
- No
- Yes, Other (please specify)

- I prefer not to answer

52. Optional: Please describe your ethnicity in whatever terms are most meaningful to you.

* 53. Do you speak French?

- Yes, I am fluent.
- Yes, with limited fluency.
- No
- I prefer not to answer

* 54. What is your faith, religion, and/or spiritual affiliation? Please select all that apply.

- Agnostic
- Atheist
- Buddhist
- Christian
- Hindu
- Indigenous spirituality
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- No religion or spiritual affiliation
- Other (please specify)

- I prefer not to answer

* 55. Do you identify as a person with a disability or disabilities?

- Yes
- No
- Sometimes, depending on the context
- I prefer not to answer

General Consultation: Draft *Foundations of Professionalism*

Demographics (Disability Type)

56. Describe your disability. Please select all that apply (options are listed in alphabetical order).

- Auditory
- Cognitive (memory, focus, attention, consciousness, etc.)
- Dexterity (related to use of fingers, hands, etc.)
- Developmental
- Fatigue-related
- Flexibility
- Gastrointestinal
- Intellectual (e.g., Learning)
- Invisible
- Mobility (movement, balance, coordination, etc.)
- Mental Health-related
- Pain-related
- Sight
- Speech
- Urinary
- Other (please specify)

- I prefer not to answer

General Consultation: Draft *Foundations of Professionalism*

End of Survey

Thank you for participating in our survey!