

# **1) Overview of the British Columbia Health Legislation**

## **a) Health Professions Act**

The *Health Professions Act*, passed in 1990, provides legislation under which health professionals will regulate themselves in this province. It allows for the establishment of various Colleges, sets out the responsibilities of boards of those Colleges, and provides general requirements for governing the members of each profession. The legislation allows denturists, as a health profession, to be self-regulated. The *Health Professions Act* describes the duties and responsibilities of a College.

## **b) Denturists Regulation**

The Denturists Regulation designates the College of Denturists of BC as the governing body for each denturist under the *Health Professions Act*.

## **c) College of Denturists of BC Bylaws**

The College of Denturists of BC is designated by regulation under the *Health Professions Act* to create bylaws for the operation of the College. The *Health Professions Act* specifically lists the areas in which the College may create Bylaws for the organization. The laws require approval by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The College of Denturists of BC's laws governs the operation of the College, as well as the registration and licensure of denturists in British Columbia.

## **d) Quality Assurance and Health Care**

Quality Assurance is the process of providing evidence that the activities of health professionals are being performed effectively. An activity where the primary purpose is to monitor, evaluate and improve the quality of health care, delivered by a

health care provider (an individual, a service or an organization) is a quality assurance study.<sup>1</sup>

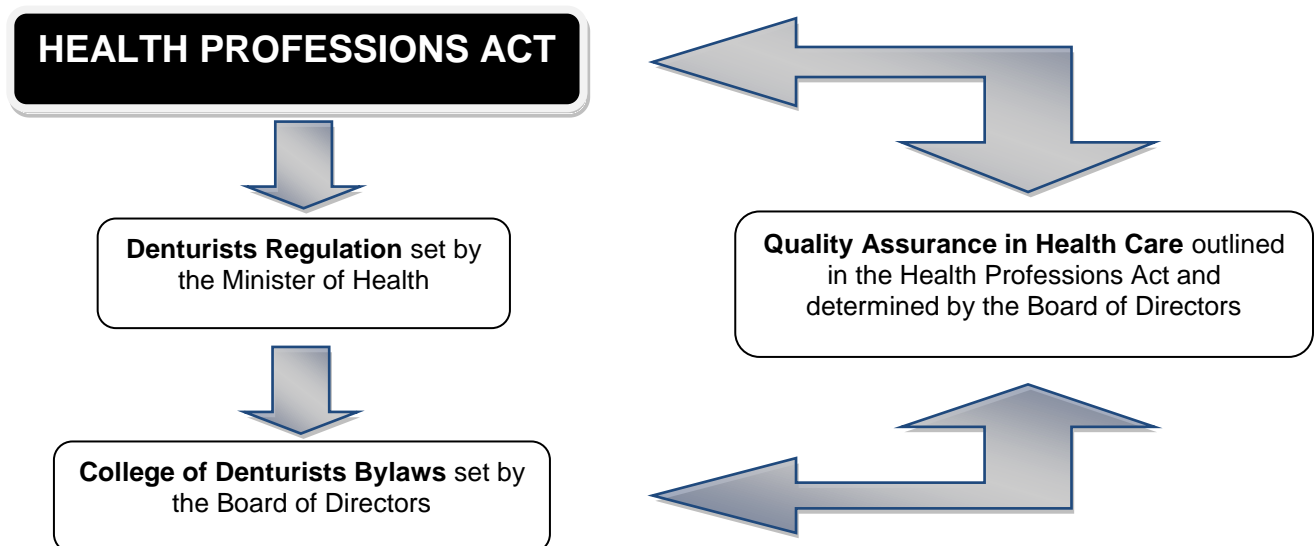
Quality Assurance is the fundamental responsibility of a regulatory body. The College of Denturists of BC, established under the *Health Professions Act*, is accountable to the public to define, monitor and improve the quality of denturism practice in British Columbia.

The College defines quality in terms of:

- The competence of its registrants, including entry level competence and continued competence;
- The appropriate conduct of its registrants, including legal and ethical behavior.

***The College derives its authority from the Health Professional Act. This legislation establishes a social contract between the College and the public who seek services from denturists in British Columbia. The social contract obligates the College to serve and protect the public.***

### Diagram of the Chart of Legislative Overview



<sup>1</sup> National Health & Medical Research Council. "When does Quality Assurance in health care require independent ethical review?" 19 June 2005. 31 July 2008. [http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health\\_ethics/human/conduct/guidelines/files/e46.pdf](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health_ethics/human/conduct/guidelines/files/e46.pdf).