

**Alberta Dental Association and College  
Hearing Tribunal Decision**

March 10, 2021

IN ACCORDANCE WITH BYLAW 19(7) OF  
THE ALBERTA DENTAL ASSOCIATION AND COLLEGE

On March 10, 2021, a Hearing Tribunal of the Alberta Dental Association and College found Dr. Vishal Sharma guilty of unprofessional conduct and he was sanctioned. A Hearing Tribunal is an independent group of decision makers comprised of a member of the public appointed by the Government of Alberta and three dentists registered in Alberta.

Dr. Sharma admitted that from about July 2015 to October 2017, he made misrepresentations to an insurer for payment for treatment to himself including claiming that he provided treatment to himself when another dentist provided the treatment, accepting payment that was less than the full amount of the account or charge submitted to an insurer or failing to reflect a discounted fee in the claims submitted to an insurer, and failed to create or maintain adequate patient records; from about March 2014 to December 2016, with respect to laboratory procedures, he inappropriately submitted claims to an insurer which incorrectly coded in-office laboratory procedures as out of office laboratory procedures and overstated the costs of laboratory fees in claims submitted to an insurer with respect to one or more patients; from about December 2014 to January 2017 he inappropriately submitted claims to an insurer for SomnoDent appliances as a periodontal appliance under procedures codes 14611 or 14612 for one or more patients; from about July 2014 to April 2015, he inappropriately submitted claims to an insurer for completed treatment on the date impressions were made rather than the date that the appliance was inserted for one or more patients; from about January 2014 to February 2016 he failed to create or maintain adequate patient records for claims submitted to an insurer to support the treatment for core restorations for several patients; and on or about March 12, 2015 he failed to create or maintain appropriate patient records to support a claim to an insurer for a patient for an appliance to treat bruxism. Dr. Sharma admitted that such conduct constituted unprofessional conduct and was contrary to the provisions of the *Health Professions Act*, as amended or the regulations, By-Laws, Standards of Practice or *Code of Ethics*.

#### ORDERS OF HEARING TRIBUNAL

The Hearing Tribunal accepted Dr. Sharma's admissions and agreed the admissions were proven and constituted unprofessional conduct under the *Health Professions Act*.

The Hearing Tribunal accepted the Joint Submission on Penalty and issued the following orders on sanction:

1. He will pay a fine of \$20,000;
2. He will be suspended for seven (7) weeks;
3. He will complete a professional ethics course, at his own cost and which will not count towards his continuing education credits; and
4. He will pay 75% of the costs of the investigation, CRC review and hearing.