

What Denturists Do

The process that denturists follow to make dentures for a patient follows these steps:

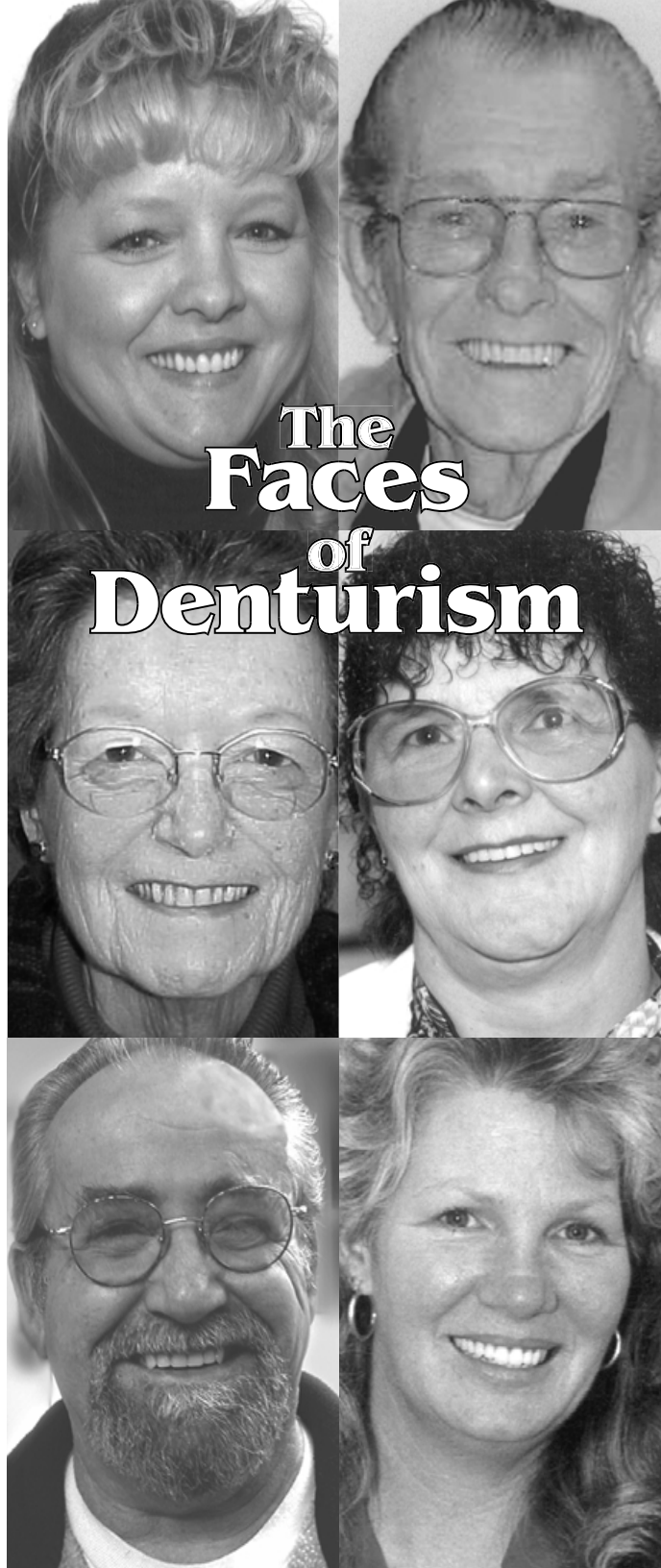
- ◆ **Performing a comprehensive oral examination and evaluation.** This includes obtaining a complete medical and dental history.
- ◆ **Taking impressions, selecting the artificial teeth to be used based on color and appearance, and design of the denture.**
- ◆ **Fabricating and inserting the denture in the patient's mouth to test for fit, appearance and to meet patient expectations.** Necessary changes are then made before the final denture is created.
- ◆ **Performing any follow up services,** including adjustments, relines or repairs. The goal is to ensure the denture fits comfortably and satisfies the patient.

When you seek the services of a denturist you will find that as a patient you play an active role in the creation of your new dentures. *Remember, you are in the hands of a professional who specializes in the making full and partial dentures.* A denturist knows that patient input is necessary to ensure that your dentures fit properly and meet your full expectations.

To find an OSDA Member in your local area, go to www.ordenturists.org or call 503-432-7954.



Oregon State Denturist Association
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Who Denturists Are

Denturists are licensed professionals dedicated solely to providing removable full and partial dentures to their patients. Denturists have been serving Oregonians since 1980, with the resounding passage of a ballot measure that allowed persons other than dentists to provide dentures directly to the public. You can go to a denturist for denture treatment without a referral from another health care practitioner.

To obtain a license to practice denturism requires a college level program in denture technology and 1000 hours of field practicum focusing on the clinical and laboratory skills necessary to fabricate and fit patients with full or partial dentures. To keep their licenses denturists must receive a minimum of 30 hours of continuing education every three years.

In addition to being trained in the construction of dentures, a denturist is also educated in microbiology, oral pathology, head and neck anatomy, geriatrics and more. A comprehensive practical exam on the fitting and making of dentures as well as a thorough written examination is given by the State of Oregon Health Licensing Office and must be passed before a license is issued.

Denturists are an important part of the community of dental care providers and make every effort to develop close working relationships with dentists and oral surgeons to ensure that their patients receive the best oral health care possible.

Denturism in Oregon: A Brief History

The practice of denturism has existed in Oregon since 1980. With the overwhelming passage of Ballot Measure #5 Oregon became the first state to recognize the denturist profession and give denturists the right to independently provide full dentures to the public. Senior groups, including the Gray Panthers, the United Seniors of Oregon and Oregon State Council of Senior Citizens have strongly supported the denturist movement since its inception.

In the 1990's, legislation was passed that created the State Board of Denture Technology, giving Oregon denturists a greater voice in the setting of state policy governing their profession. Coverage and reimbursement for denturist services in the Oregon Health Plan were expanded, as has consumer access to denture services through health plans.

In 2002, Oregon denturists and consumers reached a significant milestone with the passing of Ballot Measure 24, the Oregon Consumer Denture Care Act. This Act made it possible for denturists to add partial dentures to their scope of practice.

What Patients Are Saying About Their Denturists...



My denturist gives you exactly what he says he will, and if you're not satisfied, he isn't either. My old dentures never fit right and I hadn't really smiled in years. My new dentures have made a positive difference in the way people react with me.

Sonny Goroum, Portland

I have the highest regard for my denturist. These are my first dentures and they fit beautifully. She clearly explained the process I would go through to get them and has been honest with me about what wearing dentures will be like. I'm glad I went to a denturist and would definitely recommend that others do the same.

Marloyn Jenkins, Eugene



My denturist did more to meet my denture needs in three weeks than others have done in a year. He not only made me a great set of dentures, he took the time to show me how to take care of them as well. He is an artist, a craftsman and an excellent human being.

Bill Van Atta, Ontario



These are the best fitting dentures I have ever had. They look natural and I am so pleased with them. I am able to really chew my food for the first time in years. My denturist is truly an artist.

Layla Davis, Milwaukie

Our denturist is the best person we have ever gotten dentures from. He does such wonderful work that people can't tell we wear dentures. And his office is such a great place to visit. The entire staff is so pleasant and you always hear laughter in the waiting room. We have recommended him to our friends, and as long as we live here, he's the one we're going to see for our denture needs.

Sam and Herlinda McCauley, Medford



Choosing a Denturist

Once you make the decision visit a denturist for a new or replacement denture the question becomes who to see and what criteria to use to make the choice.

Most denturists will gladly schedule a free, no obligation appointment to evaluate and discuss your needs and answer any questions you may have, including those about price and delivery. Many will be able to show examples of their work and provide patient referrals. This is a good way to get to know the denturist as a person and to judge their capabilities.

As with other healthcare providers, the quality of the relationship between you and your denturist will ultimately be determined over time and through personal experience.



An easy way to begin the selection process is to visit the *Finding A Denturist* page at the Oregon State Denturist Association website at www.ordenturist.org.