

Table 2 Guidelines for unconventional dental practice

The dentist should practise only to the level of his or her competence.

The dentist must take a complete medical and dental history to ensure that there are no contraindications to the proposed treatment and to identify all patient uses of UM or UD.

The dentist should not advise any changes to conventional medical treatment without the advice of the patient's physician.

Conventional dental practices and procedures should be performed initially. Patient refusal must be documented.

The dentist should communicate with the patient's physician, including the dental diagnosis, advice and treatment to be performed, expected duration of treatment and follow-up plans.

The dentist must advise the patient of the known risks, expected benefits, duration, costs and scientific basis (unproven, unknown) of the treatment and obtain informed consent.

Before the dentist provides UD, a reasonable reflection period for the patient must be documented. A patient request for initiation of immediate care without a period of reflection must be documented.

The dentist must, initially and throughout treatment, document the diagnosis, symptoms, findings, discussions with the patient, recommendations and reasons, expectations, differences with conventional care and costs.

The dentist, physician and patient should agree on outcome and progress assessment.

Modified from Zollman and Vickers¹⁵ and the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Province of Alberta¹⁶