

No. R. 971

19 October 2007

**HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA****REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF DENTISTRY**

The Minister of Health intends, in terms of section 33(1), read together with section 61(2) of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), on the recommendation of the Health Professions Council of South Africa, to make the regulations in the Schedule.

Interested persons are invited to submit any substantiated comments or representations on the proposed regulations to the Director-General: Health, Private Bag X828, Pretoria, 0001 (for the attention of the Director: Human Resource Stakeholder Relations and Management), within one months of the date of publication of this notice.

**SCHEDULE****Definitions**

1. In these regulations "the Act" means the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), and any expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall bear such meaning, and unless the context otherwise indicates -

**"board"** means the Medical and Dental Professions Board established in terms of section 15(1) of the Act;

**"dentistry"** means the profession of a person registered as a dentist in terms of the Act;

**"section"** means a section of the Act.

## Scope of the profession

2. The following acts are hereby specified by the board under section 33 as acts, which, for the purposes of the Act, shall be deemed to be acts pertaining to the profession of dentistry:

- (a) The physical examination of the oral and related structures of a person;
- (b) Making a diagnosis of (including determining the relevance of systemic conditions) and / or giving advice on illnesses and conditions of the oral and related structures;
- (c) The performance of procedures and / or the prescribing of medicines aimed at managing the health of a patient (prevention, treatment and rehabilitation);
- (d) The performance of any procedure on a patient aimed at the fitting or supply of a dental prosthesis or appliance; and
- (e) The performance of any other aesthetic procedure as taught at dental schools.

3. The provisions of regulation 2 shall not be construed as prohibiting:

- (a) a medical practitioner, not registered also as a dentist, from performing in the course of his or her practice acts pertaining to the practice of dentistry in cases of emergency or where no dentist is readily available;
- (b) the employment by and under the supervision of a dentist of any person registered under the Dental Technicians Act, 1979 (Act 19 of 1979), for the purpose of making or repairing dentures or other dental appliances;
- (c) any person from making or repairing artificial dentures or other dental appliances for his or her own profit: Provided that such work is carried out on the instructions and to the order of a dentist, and does not includes the taking of any impression or bite or any trying in or fitting in the mouth; or
- (d) a person registered in terms of the Act in respect of a profession connected with the practice of dentistry, from performing any act pertaining to the practice of dentistry under the control and supervision of a dentist.

**Registration a prerequisite to practice**

4. Any person who wishes to perform any of the acts referred to in regulation 2 shall apply to the board in the prescribed manner for registration as a dentist and submit proof of having complied with the prescribed requirements for such registration.

**MINISTER OF HEALTH**