
GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

No. R. 212

11 March 2011

HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA

REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF ORAL HYGIENE

The Minister of Health intends, in terms of section 33 (1) read with section 61(5) of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), and on the recommendations 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 in writing on the proposed regulations to the Director-General: Health, Private Bag X 828, Pretoria, 0001 (for attention of the Director: Public Entities and Management) within three months from date of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In these regulations the "Act" means the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act 56 of 1974), and any expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall bear that meaning, and unless the context otherwise dictates—

"**board**" means the Professional Board for Dental Therapy and Oral Hygiene established in terms of section 15 (1) of the Act ;

"**oral hygiene**" means the profession of a person registered as an oral hygienist in terms of the Act;

"**oral hygienist**" means a person registered as such in terms of the Act;

Scope of the profession of oral hygiene

2. The following acts are hereby specified as acts which shall, for the purposes of the application of the Act, be deemed to be acts pertaining to the profession of oral hygiene:

(1) developing, implementing and evaluating oral health promotion programmes;

(2) (a) **assessment:**

- (i) assessing a patient by means of an interview and an oral clinical examination;
- (ii) performing analogue and digital radiography and taking clinical photographs;
- (iii) making impressions, cast, trim and polishing study casts;

(b) **diagnosis and treatment plan:**

making dental hygiene diagnosis and developing appropriate treatment plan within the scope of the profession of oral hygienist;

(c) **education and preventive Care:**

- (i) advising and educating patients about oral self care practices including mechanical and chemotherapeutic plaque control, nutritional counselling and tobacco cessation;
- (ii) advising vitamins about the dietary supplements, fluoride tablets, mouth rinses and other anti-microbial agents;
- (iii) applying topical agents such as caries-preventive agents, remineralising agents, tooth-desensitising

agents, surface anaesthetics and plaque-controlling agents;

- (iv) applying pit and fissure sealants;
- (v) performing scaling and root debridement, scaling of implants and polishing of teeth;
- (vi) making of a study cast to produce protective vacuum formed mouth guard;

(d) **therapeutic Care:**

- (i) placing and removing rubber dam and matrix bands, applying minimally invasive procedures such as traumatic restorative techniques (ART) and sealant restorations;
- (ii) treating dentine hypersensitivity and cervical abrasion lesions with glass ionomer cement;
- (iii) polishing and racenteur overhanging restorations;
- (iv) applying topical anaesthesia;

(e) **cosmetic Care:**

applying vital tooth bleaching (whitening) techniques and procedures;

- (3) assisting dental therapists, dentists, dental specialists in the performance of basic and advanced clinical procedures.

- (4) performing the following supportive clinical procedures as prescribed by dentists and dental specialists:

(a) **periodontics:**

- (i) taking cytological smears;
- (ii) splinting mobile teeth;
- (iii) applying and removing periodontal packs;
- (iv) removing surgical sutures;

(b) **conservative Dentistry and Prosthodontics:**

- (i) placing temporary restorations as an emergency measure;
- (ii) performing temporary cementing of inlays, crowns and bridges; and
- (iii) placing soft linings in dentures as tissue conditioners.

(c) **orthodontics**

- (i) performing cephalometric tracings;
- (ii) relieving trauma caused by intra-and extra-oral appliances, such as the cutting of distal ends of arch wires;
- (iii) taking impressions, cast and trim study and primary work models;
- (iv) placing pre-activated orthodontic appliances, removing of orthodontic attachments and bands (placing and removing elastics and ligature wires, placing and activating arch wires);
- (v) re-cementing orthodontic retainers.

Performance of professional act by a student in oral hygiene

3. A student in oral hygiene shall only perform acts, referred to in regulation 2 of the regulations, under the supervision of a dental specialist, dentist, dental therapist, or oral hygienist

Conditions of practice by oral hygienist

4. A registered oral hygienist may only practice independently, his or her profession:
- (1) after serving a period of at least one year under the control and supervision of a registered dentist, dental therapist or another oral hygienist, and with approval of the Board;


- (2) after obtaining any of the qualifications in oral hygiene approved by the Board, and if obtained prior to 2001, must have also obtained a further qualification in expanded clinical functions in oral hygiene offered by any of the examining authorities approved by the Board; and
- (3) after successfully completing a First Aid Level 3 training at a training institution approved by the Health and Welfare SETA.

Repeal

- 5. The regulations published under Government Notice R1150 in *Government Gazette* 21736 of 17 November 2000 are hereby repealed.

Short title

- 6. Regulations Defining the Scope of Oral Hygiene, made in terms of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974).



DR A MOTSOLEDI, MP
MINISTER OF HEALTH
DATE: 15/12/2010