

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NO. 2555


30 September 2022

## HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 1974 (ACT NO.56 OF 1974)

## REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF DENTAL THERAPY

The Minister of Health intends, in terms of section 33(1) of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), and on the recommendation of the Health Professions Council of South Africa and the Professional Board for dental assisting, dental therapy, and oral hygiene, 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 of Health, Private Bag X828, Pretoria, 0001 (for attention of the Director: Public Entities Governance), [mihloti.mushwana@health.gov.za](mailto:mihloti.mushwana@health.gov.za) and [paul.tsebe@health.gov.za](mailto:paul.tsebe@health.gov.za) within three months of the date of publication of this notice.



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DR M.J. PHAAHLA, MP

MINISTER OF HEALTH

DATE: 17/08/2022

## SCHEDULE

### DEFINITIONS

1. In these regulations, “Act” means the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), and any word or expression to which has been assigned in the Act shall have that meaning, unless the context indicates; and
2. The following acts are hereby specified as acts which shall for purposes of the Act be deemed to be acts pertaining to the profession of dental therapy:
  - (a) the recording of the medical, social and dental history, examination of patients, and the charting and diagnosis of their oral and dental status;
  - (b) the making of a diagnosis and the development of an appropriate treatment plan within the scope of the profession of dental therapy;
  - (c) the diagnosis and identification of extra and intra-oral abnormalities (limited to the head and neck region and within the scope of dental therapy), and oral manifestations of other systemic diseases such as oral cancer and HIV/AIDS;
  - (d) the measurement of vital signs and identification of medical risk cases that may complicate oral health treatment;
  - (e) the performance of debridement, scaling, non-surgical root-planing, the cleaning of dental implants and polishing of teeth;
  - (f) direct conservation procedures, including the use of composite and fibre and other bonding systems and techniques to directly replace missing teeth;
  - (g) the performance of analogue and digital radiography and the taking of clinical photographs for the performance of acts that pertain to the profession of dental therapy;
  - (h) the application of primary preventive and therapeutic measures including health promotion, advising and education of patients about oral self-care practices including, but not limited to, mechanical and chemotherapeutic plaque control, and tobacco cessation, nutrition and diet, fluorides, and anti-microbial agents in relation to oral disease prevention;
  - (i) the emergency treatment of minor trauma to teeth and surrounding tissues, within the scope of dental therapy;
  - (j) the performance of any aesthetic procedure within the ambit of dental therapy;
  - (k) the administration of nitrous oxide and conscious sedation;
  - (l) the application of topical and local anaesthesia;
  - (m) assisting oral health professionals in the performance of basic and advanced clinical procedures;

- (n) the application of vital and non-vital tooth whitening techniques and procedures;
  - (o) the taking of impressions and the manufacture of a study cast or digital impressions (intraoral scans) to produce vacuum formed mouth guards; occlusal guards and whitening trays;
  - (p) the splinting of mobile teeth;
  - (q) taking cytological smears;
  - (r) the use of rotary instruments to resect teeth and/or roots for extraction (limited to visible and non-impacted teeth);
  - (s) the prescription of medication for the treatment of oral conditions relevant to the practice of dental therapy, and as published in the relevant government gazette as amended from time to time;
  - (t) the placement of fibre-bonded space maintainers;
  - (u) relief of pain and infection via the intra-oral drainage of abscess (limited to intra-oral gingival presentations);
  - (v) the non-surgical removal of teeth and roots under local anesthetic;
  - (w) pulpotomy and the placement of stainless-steel crowns in deciduous teeth; and
  - (x) the treatment of post-extraction complications such as alveolar osteitis and post-extraction haemorrhage requiring immediate management (antibiotic and analgesics prescription and sutures as necessary) and prompt referral of complications such as oro-antral communications (OAC), tuberosity fracture and fractured teeth requiring surgical removal.
3. A registered dental therapist must refer, to a dentist or dental specialist, all cases outside the scope of the profession of dental therapy which may include, but are not limited to-
- (a) pulpal exposure, excluding the emergency treatment of permanent dentition and pulpal therapy of deciduous dentition;
  - (b) impacted teeth;
  - (c) malocclusion;
  - (d) the replacement of missing teeth, including the requirements for fixed and removable prostheses, or implants;
  - (e) oral and maxillofacial pathology; and
  - (f) surgical periodontal treatment.

### Repeal

4. The regulations defining the scope of the profession of dental therapy as published under Published under *Government Notice* No. 1391 in *Government Gazette* No. 40414 of 11 November 2016 are hereby repealed.

**Short Title**

5. These Regulations are called Regulations Defining the Scope of the Profession of Dental Therapy, 2022.