

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NO. 5457

25 October 2024

HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 1974 (ACT No.56 OF 1974)

REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF DENTAL ASSISTANTS

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 and paul.tsebe@health.gov.za), within three months of the date of publication of this Notice.


DR P.A MOTSOALEDI, MP

MINISTER OF HEALTH

DATE: 20/9/2024

SCHEDULE

DEFINITIONS

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

Act pertaining to the Profession of Dental Assistants

2. The following acts are acts pertaining to the profession of dental assistants: -
 - (a) preparing and managing the oral health care environment before, during and after patient care;
 - (b) undertaking instrument and equipment recirculation procedures including sterilising instruments, and disinfecting surfaces and equipment, in the oral health care environment;
 - (c) monitoring infection control, sterilisation processes, biological, medical and/or bio-hazardous waste management within the oral health care environment;
 - (d) preparing dental materials, instruments and equipment (including dental handpieces) for use in clinical procedures performed by the oral health practitioner;
 - (e) assisting with the patient's needs and comfort during dental treatment;
 - (f) providing clinical assistance using four-handed dentistry which includes, but not limited to, instrument transfer, high-speed suctioning and debridement techniques in procedures that are performed by an oral health care professional;
 - (h) recording patient data gathered before, during and after patient interview, related to the oral assessment of the hard and soft tissues, and oral structures, and during the treatment of the patient;
 - (i) caring for, and maintaining, equipment used in the oral health care environment;

- (j) taking of intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs as directed by, and under the direct supervision of the supervising oral hygienist, dental therapist, dentist or dental specialist;
- (k) developing dental radiographs using chemical and other means;
- (l) assisting the oral health practitioner in the event of a medical emergency in the oral health care environment and applying the necessary measures during clinical emergencies at First Aid level 2 or Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers;
- (m) the taking and measuring of vital signs limited to pulse, respiration, blood pressure and blood sugar levels;
- (n) providing basic oral health instructions (restricted to tooth-brushing and flossing) under the supervision of an oral health care professional;
- (o) pouring and trimming study models; and
- (p) providing patients with pre- and post-treatment advice or instructions.

Repeal

3. The regulations defining the scope of the profession of dental assistants as published under *Government Notice* No. R. 396 in *Government Gazette* No. 35364 of 21 May 2012 are hereby repealed.

Short title

4. These Regulations are called Regulations Defining the Scope of the Profession of Dental Assistants, 2024.