

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NO. 439

19 MAY 2017

**HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 1974 (ACT NO. 56 OF 1974)****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(2) 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 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), within three months of the date of publication of this notice.

  
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**DR A MOTSOALEDI, MP****MINISTER OF HEALTH****DATE:** 15/4/2017

## SCHEDULE

### Definitions

1. In these Regulations any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall bear that meaning, and unless the context otherwise indicates –

**"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;

**"the Act"** means the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974).

### 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:

- (a) The development, implementation and evaluation of oral health promotion programmes.
- (b) the assessment of a patient by means of an interview and an oral clinical examination;
- (c) the performance of analogue and digital radiography and the taking of clinical photographs;
- (d) the making of an oral hygiene diagnosis and the development of an appropriate treatment plan within the scope of the profession of oral hygienist.

- (e) the advising and education of patients about oral self-care practices including mechanical and chemotherapeutic plaque control, nutritional counselling and tobacco cessation;
- (f) Advising patients about nutrition and diet, fluorides, and anti-microbial agents (excluding antibiotics) in relation to oral disease prevention;
- (g) the application of topical agents such as caries-preventive agents, remineralising agents, tooth-desensitising agents, surface anaesthetics and plaque-controlling agents;
- (h) the application of pit and fissure sealants;
- (i) the performance of debridement, scaling, root planing, the cleaning of dental implants and the polishing of teeth.
- (j) the making of a study cast to produce protective vacuum formed mouth guard.
- (k) *the application of minimally invasive procedures such as atraumatic restorative techniques (ART) and sealant restorations, and only when necessary to facilitate these procedures, the placing and removing of rubber dam and matrix band.;*
- (l) the treatment of dentine hypersensitivity and cervical abrasion lesions with glass ionomer cement;
- (m) the polishing and recontouring of overhanging restorations;
- (o) the application of topical anaesthesia, subject to Section 22A(4)(a)(v)(aa) of the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 1965 (Act No. 101 of 1965);
- (p) the administration of local anaesthesia, subject to Section 22A(4)(a)(v)(aa) of the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 1965 (Act No.101 of 1965);

- (q) the giving of assistance to dental therapists, dentists, dental specialists with the performance of basic and advanced clinical procedures;
- (r) the application of vital tooth whitening techniques and procedures;
- (s) the performance of the following supportive clinical procedures as prescribed by dentists and dental specialists:
  - (i) The taking of cytological smears;
  - (ii) the splinting of mobile teeth;
  - (iii) the application and removal of periodontal packs; and
  - (iv) the removal of surgical sutures;
  - (v) the placing of temporary restorations as an emergency measure;
  - (vi) the performance of temporary cementing of inlays, crowns and bridges;
  - (vii) the placement of soft linings in dentures as tissue conditioners;
  - (viii) the performance of cephalometric tracings;
  - (ix) the relieving of trauma caused by intra-and extra-oral appliances, such as the cutting of distal ends of arch wires;
  - (x) the taking of impressions, cast and trim study and primary work models;
  - (xi) placement of pre-activated orthodontic appliances, the removal of orthodontic attachments and bands (the placement and removal of elastics and ligature wires, the placement and activation of arch wires); and
  - (xii) the re-cementing of orthodontic retainers.

### **Performance of professional act by student in oral hygiene**

#### **3. A student in oral hygiene shall perform acts:**

- (a) referred to in regulation 2 (a)-(r), only under the supervision of a dental specialist, dentist, dental therapist, or oral hygienist;
- (b) referred to in regulation 2 (s) only under the supervision of dental specialists and dentists.

**Conditions of practice by registered oral hygienist**

4. (1) A registered oral hygienist may practice independently, his or her profession, only -
- (a) after serving a period of at least one year under the control and supervision of a registered dentist, dental therapist or another registered oral hygienist, and with approval of the Board;
  - (b) after obtaining any of the qualifications in oral hygiene approved by the Board, and if such qualification was obtained prior to 2001, he or she 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
  - (c) after successfully completing a First Aid Level 3 training at a training institution approved by the Health and Welfare SETA.
- (2) An oral hygienist registered in the category "supervised practice" shall perform acts referred to in regulation 2 under the supervision of a dental specialist, dentist, dental therapist, or an oral hygienist, and only if an oral hygienist referred to in this sub regulation has received adequate education, training and is sufficiently experienced; and perform these acts under proper and appropriate conditions.

**Repeal**

5. The regulations published in Government Notice R.800 in *Government Gazette* No. 36944 of 17 October 2013 are hereby repealed.

**Short title**

6. These Regulations are called the Regulations Defining the Scope of Oral Hygiene.