

# HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT 56 OF 1974

## REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF DENTISTRY

Published under Government Notice R238 in *Government Gazette* 31958 of 6 March 2009.

The Minister of Health has, in terms of [section 33](#)(1), read with [section 61](#)(2), of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), as amended by Act 29 of 2007, and on the recommendation of the Health Professions Council of South Africa, made the regulations in the Schedule.

### SCHEDULE

#### [1. Definitions](#)

#### [2. Scope of the profession](#)

#### [3. The provisions of regulation 2 shall not be construed as prohibiting-](#)

#### [4. Registration a prerequisite to practise](#)

#### 1. Definitions

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 that 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; and

“**section**” means a section of the Act.

#### 2. Scope of the profession

The following acts are hereby specified by the board under [section 33](#) as acts which shall, for the purposes of the Act, be deemed to be acts pertaining to the profession of dentistry:

- (a) The physical clinical examination of the oral, maxillofacial and related structures of a person;
- (b) making a diagnosis of diseases, injuries and conditions of the oral, maxillofacial and related structures, including determining the relevance of systemic conditions, and/or giving advice on such conditions;
- (c) performing dental procedures and/or prescribing medicines aimed at managing the oral health of a patient, including prevention, treatment and rehabilitation;
- (d) performing any procedure on a patient aimed at fitting or supplying a dental prosthesis or appliance; and
- (e) performing any aesthetic or cosmetic procedure on a patient pertaining to the oral and peri-oral area.

3. The provisions of [regulation 2](#) shall not be construed as prohibiting-
- (a) a medical practitioner not registered 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 No. 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 include the taking of any impression or bite or any trying or fitting in the mouth; or
  - (d) a person registered in terms of the Act in respect of a profession related to the practice of dentistry from performing any act pertaining to the practice of dentistry under the control and supervision of a dentist.

**4. Registration a prerequisite to practise**

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

**(Signed)**

**B HOGAN**

**MINISTER OF HEALTH**