
GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

No. R. 802

15 September 2010

HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 1974 (ACT 56 OF 1974)

REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF DENTAL THERAPY

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: Human Resource Stakeholder Relations and Management), within three months of the 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 ; and

"**dental therapy**" means the profession of a person registered as a dental therapist in terms of the Act.

Scope of the profession of dental therapy

- 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 dental therapy:
- (1) the examining of patients and the charting of their dental status;
 - (2) the diagnosis and treatment of oral conditions;
 - (3) the scaling, root planning, and polishing of teeth;
 - (4) direct conservative procedures;
 - (5) removal of teeth and roots under local anaesthesia;
 - (6) the treatment of post-extraction bleeding, alveolar osteitis and placement of sutures;
 - (7) the application of primary preventative measures;
 - (8) the treatment of minor traumatic injuries to teeth and surrounding tissues, including the splinting of teeth;
 - (9) the taking of intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs for the purposes of performing those acts that pertain to the profession of dental therapy;
 - (10) the prescribing of medication for the treatment of oral conditions relevant to the practice of dental therapy; and
 - (11) the performance of any other aesthetic procedure within the dental profession.

Requirements for practice

3. A registered dental therapist may practice his or her profession subject to the following conditions:

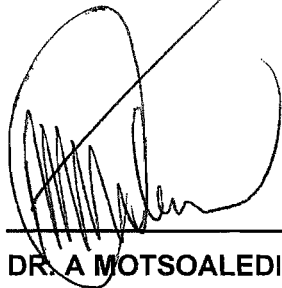
- (1) he or she may only practise independently after serving a period of at least one year under the control and supervision of a registered dentist or another registered dental therapist, and with the approval of the Board;
- (2) he or she shall refer, to a dentist or dental specialist, all cases of —
 - (i) pulpal exposure, excluding the emergency treatment thereof; and
 - (ii) impacted teeth.

Performance of professional acts by a student in dental therapy

4. A student in dental therapy shall perform acts pertaining to the profession of dental therapy under the supervision of a registered dentist, dental specialists, dental therapists or oral hygienist, and shall, limit such acts to acts directly related to his or her education and training in dental therapy.

Repeal of Regulations

5. The regulations promulgated by Government Notice No. R 844 of 19 April 1991 and No. R.1741 of 17 September 1993 are hereby repealed.



DR. A MOTSOLEDI
MINISTER OF HEALTH