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## HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT 56 OF 1974

### REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF ORAL HYGIENISTS

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The Minister of Health has, in terms of section 24 of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), and after consultation with the Health Professions Council of South Africa, made the regulations in the Schedule.

#### SCHEDULE

#### 1. Definitions

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

“**professional board**” means the Professional Board for Dental Therapy and Oral Hygiene established in terms of Section 15 of the Act;

“**examination**” means an assessment of competency conducted by examiners appointed by the professional board;

“**independent practice**” means the practice of a health practitioner who practices for his or her own account, either in solus practice, as a partner in a partnership, as an associate in an association with other practitioners, or as a director of a company established in terms of Section 54A of the Act;

“**oral hygienist**” means a person who is registered as such under the Act; and

“**supervised practice**” means the practicing of an oral hygiene profession under the supervision of an appropriately qualified health practitioner i.e. dentist, dental therapist or oral hygienist

#### 2. Qualifications for registration

The qualifications required for the registration as an oral hygienist in terms of the Act shall be as specified below

Examining authority and Qualification	Abbreviation for registration
<b>University of Limpopo (formally MEDUNSA)</b>	
Diploma in Oral Hygiene	Dip Oral Hygiene - Limpopo
Bachelor in Oral Hygiene	B Oral Hyg - Limpopo
<b>University of Kwazulu-Natal (formally Durban-Westville)</b>	
Diploma in Oral Hygiene	Dip Oral Hygiene - Kwazulu-Natal
Bachelor in Oral Health	B Oral Health - Kwazulu-Natal
<b>University of Pretoria</b>	
Diploma in Oral Hygiene	Dip Oral Hygiene - Pret
Bachelor in Oral Hygiene	Oral Hygiene - Pret
<b>University of Stellenbosch</b>	
Diploma in Oral Hygiene (if obtained prior to 2004)	Dip Oral Hygiene - Stell
<b>University of Western Cape</b>	
Diploma in Oral Hygiene	Dip Oral Hygiene - Western Cape
Baccalaureus Sanitatis Oris	B San Or - Western Cape
<b>University of Witwatersrand</b>	

Diploma in Oral Hygiene	Dip Oral Hygiene - Wits
Bachelor in Oral Hygiene	B Oral Hygiene - Wits

### 3. Registration categories for registration of Oral Hygienists

The Registrar may register a person as an oral hygienist in one of the following categories-

- (a) Supervised practice if such person has obtained any of the qualifications referred to in regulation 2;
- (b) independent practice if such person has:-
  - (i) obtained any of the qualifications referred to in regulation 2, and if obtained prior to 2001, must have also obtained further qualification in expanded clinical functions in oral hygiene offered by any examining authorities referred to in regulation 2;
  - (ii) practiced under supervised practice for a period of at least one year; and
  - (iii) successfully completed a First Aid Level 3 training at a training institution approved by the Health and Welfare SETA.

(Signed  
DR A MOTSOLEDI, MP  
MINISTER OF HEALTH  
DATE: 14/1/2015