
GOVERNMENT NOTICE GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWING

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DEPARTEMENT VAN GESONDHEID

No. R. 706

31 August 2012

HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 1974 (ACT 56 OF 1974)

REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF DENTAL THERAPY

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), and on the recommendation of the Health Professions Council of South Africa and the Professional Board for Dental Therapy and Oral Hygiene, made the regulations in the Schedule

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 indicates

"**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 recording of the dental history, examination of patients, the charting and diagnosis of their oral and dental status;
- (2) Diagnosis and identification of extra and intra-oral abnormalities and oral manifestations of other systematic diseases such as oral cancer and HIV/AIDS;
- (3) The recording of patients' medical history and the identification of medical risk cases that may complicate oral health treatment;
- (4) the scaling, root planning, and polishing of teeth;
- (5) direct conservative procedures;
- (6) The non-surgical removal of teeth and roots under local anaesthetics and placement of sutures where appropriate;
- (7) The treatment of post-extraction complications amongst other post-extraction bleeding, alveolar osteitis by the placement of intra-socket medicaments and/or sutures and other local measures;
- (8) the application of primary preventive and therapeutic measures including health promotion;
- (9) the treatment of minor traumatic injuries to teeth and surrounding tissues, including the splinting of teeth;
- (10) the taking of intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs for the purpose of performing those acts that pertain to the profession of dental therapy;
- (11) the prescribing of medication for the treatment of oral conditions relevant to the practice of dental therapy and as prescribed in the approved list of medicines;
- (12) the performance of any aesthetic procedure within the ambit of dental therapy.
- (13) The taking of impressions for the purposes of bleaching and fabricating mouthguards; and

- (14) Adjusting and repairing of intra oral applications.
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 clinical supervision of a registered dentist or another registered dental therapist registered in the category independent practice for at least 3 years and and with the approval of the Board; and
- (2) he or she shall refer, to a dentist or dental specialist, all cases outside the scope of the profession of dental therapy which may include :-
- (i) pulpal exposure, excluding the emergency treatment permanent dentition and pulpal therapy of deciduous dentition;
 - (ii) impacted teeth;
 - (iii) malocclusion;
 - (iv) the replacement of missing teeth, including the requirements for fixed and removable prostheses, or implants; or
 - (v) oral and maxillofacial pathology.

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

5. The regulations published *under Government Notice R1741 in Government Gazette 15120 of 17 September 1993* are hereby repealed.

Short title

6. These regulations are called Regulations Defining the Scope of the Profession of Dental Therapy made in terms of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974).



DR A MOTSOLEDI, MP
MINISTER OF HEALTH

DATE: 16/5/2012