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## GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

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### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NO. 512

10 MAY 2016

#### HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 1974 (ACT NO. 56 OF 1974)

#### REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF DENTAL THERAPISTS

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) after consultation with the Health Professions Council of South Africa and the Professional Board of Dental Therapy and Oral Hygiene, to make the Regulations in the Schedule.

Interested persons are invited to submit any substantiated comments in writing on the proposed Regulations to the Director-General: Health, Private Bag X828, Pretoria, 0001, for the attention of the Director: Public Entities and Management, within three months from date of publication of this Notice.

#### 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 –

“**Act**” means the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974);

“**board**” means the Professional Board for Dental Therapy and Oral Hygiene established in terms of section 15(1) of the Act;

“**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. (1) 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 professions of dental therapy:

- (a) The recording of the dental history, examination of patients, the charting and diagnosis of their oral and dental status;
- (b) the diagnosis and identification of extra and intra-oral abnormalities and oral manifestations of other systemic diseases such as oral cancer and HIV/AIDS;
- (c) the recording of patients' medical history and identification of medical risk cases that may complicate oral health treatment;
- (d) the scaling, non-surgical root planing and polishing of teeth;
- (e) the direct conservation procedures;
- (f) the non-surgical removal of teeth and roots under local anaesthetics and placement of sutures, where appropriate;
- (g) the treatment of post-extraction complications, amongst other things, post-extraction bleeding, alveolar osteitis by the placement of intra-socket medicaments, sutures and other local measures;
- (h) the application of primary preventive and therapeutic measures including health promotion;
- (i) the emergency treatment of minor traumatic injuries to teeth and surrounding tissues;
- (j) the taking of intra-oral and extra-oral radiographs for the purpose of performing acts that pertain to the profession of dental therapy;
- (k) the prescribing of medication for the treatment of oral conditions relevant to the practice of dental therapy and as prescribed in Schedule 1, Annexure 2: Dental Therapists, published in Government Gazette No. 36827 of 13 September 2013, as amended from time to time; and
- (l) the performance of any aesthetic procedure within the ambit of dental therapy.

(2) A registered dental therapist must refer, to a dentist or dental specialist, all cases outside the scope of the profession of dental therapy which may include, but are not limited to –

- (a) pulpal exposure, excluding the emergency treatment of permanent dentition and pulpal therapy of deciduous dentition;
- (b) impacted teeth;
- (c) malocclusion;
- (d) the replacement of missing teeth, including the requirements for fixed and removable prostheses, or implants; or
- (e) oral and maxillofacial pathology.

(3) Should a Dental Therapist not have received education and training in any of the acts specified above then he/she will need to undertake an appropriate training course at a Health Professions Council approved training institution, prior to undertaking any of such above acts.

(4) A registered dental therapist may only practice independently after serving a period of at least one year under the control and clinical supervision of a registered dentist or another dental therapist registered in the category independent practice for at least 3 years and with the approval of the Board.

#### **Performance of professional acts by a student in dental therapy**

3. A student in dental therapy may perform acts pertaining to the profession of dental therapy only under the clinical supervision of a registered dentist, dental specialist, dental therapist or oral hygienist, and only if such acts directly related to his or her education and training in dental therapy.

#### **Repeal**

4. The regulations published under Government Notice R706 in *Government Gazette* No. 35644 of 31 August 2012, are hereby repealed.

**Short title**

5. These Regulations are called the Regulations defining the scope of the profession of Dental Therapists, 2016.



DR A MOTSOLEDI, MP  
MINISTER OF HEALTH  
DATE: 9/3/2016