

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

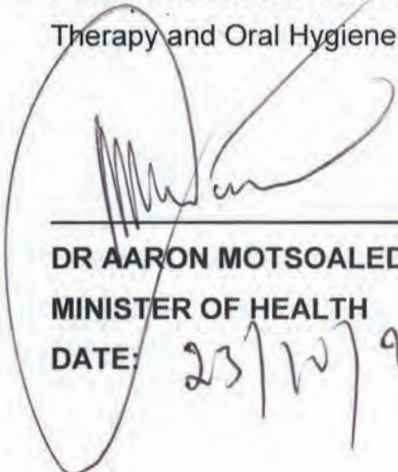
NO. 1391

11 NOVEMBER 2016

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

REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF DENTAL THERAPY

The Minister of Health has, under 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 of Dental Therapy and Oral Hygiene, made the Regulations in the Schedule.



DR AARON MOTSOALEDI
MINISTER OF HEALTH
DATE: 23/11/2016

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In these regulations, and any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act has the meaning so assigned 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;

“**dental therapy**” means the profession of a person registered as a dental therapist in terms of the Act;

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

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 patients' medical history and identification of medical risk cases that may complicate oral health treatment;
- (b) the recording of patients' dental history, the examination of patients, and the charting and diagnosis of their oral and dental status;
- (c) the diagnosis and identification of extra-oral and intra-oral abnormalities;
- (d) the debridement, scaling, non-surgical root planning, and polishing of teeth;
- (e) the direct restorative 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 and alveolar osteitis;
 - (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 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;
 - (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 referred to in subregulation (1), the dental therapist must undertake the appropriate training approved by the board, prior to undertaking any of such above acts.

(4) A registered dental therapist may practise independently only 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 three 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 relate 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 Therapy, 2016.