

# HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT 56 OF 1974

## REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF ORAL HYGIENE

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The Minister of Health has, in terms of [section 33](#) (1) of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), on the recommendation of the Health Professions Council of South Africa, made the regulations in the Schedule.

### SCHEDULE

[Regulation 1](#)

[Regulation 2](#)

[Regulation 3](#)

1. In these regulations any expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall bear such meaning and, unless the context otherwise indicates-

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

2. The following acts shall for the purposes of the application of the Act be deemed to be acts pertaining to the profession of oral hygiene:

- (1) Provisional examination and charting of conditions of the mouth, with particular reference to the teeth and periodontium;
- (2) scaling, root planing and polishing of the teeth, including trimming and polishing of restorations;
- (3) performing dental radiography;
- (4) topical application of agents appropriate to the practice of the oral hygienist, including caries-preventive agents, tooth-desensitising agents, surface anaesthetics and plaque-controlling agents;
- (5) application and removal of periodontal packs;
- (6) taking impressions and casting of study and primary work models;
- (7) placement of temporary fillings as an emergency measure prior to referral to a dental therapist or dentist;
- (8) temporary cementing of inlays, crowns and bridges;

- (9) placement of glass ionomer cement on sensitive dentine or cervical abrasion lesions;
  - (10) placement of soft linings in dentures as tissue conditioners;
  - (11) taking of cytological smears, for example to test for candida infections;
  - (12) performing specified functions in orthodontics-
    - (a) cephalometric tracings;
    - (b) relief of trauma caused by intra- and extra-oral appliances, for example the cutting of distal ends of arch wires;
    - (c) the placement of pre-activated orthodontic appliances and the removal of orthodontic attachments and bands;
  - (13) administering of applicable local analgesia as appropriate to the scope of the profession of oral hygiene.
- 3.** The regulations promulgated by Government Notice No. R. 1729 of 9 August 1985 are hereby repealed.