

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NO. 881


17 September 2021

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

REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF ORAL HYGIENE

The Minister of Health intends, in terms of section 33(1) 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 assisting, dental therapy, and oral hygiene, to make the Regulations in the Schedule.

Interested persons are invited to submit any substantiated comments or representations on the proposed Regulations to the Director-General of Health, Private Bag X828, Pretoria, 0001 (for attention of the Director: Public Entities Governance, mihloti.mushwana@health.gov.za and paul.tsebe@health.gov.za), within three months of the date of publication of this Notice.


DR M.J PHAAHLA, MP

MINISTER OF HEALTH

DATE: 30/08/2021

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In these regulations and any word or expression to which has been assigned in the Act shall have that meaning, and , unless the context indicates-

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

Acts of oral hygiene

2. The following are for purposes of the Act deemed to be specifically acts pertaining to the profession of oral hygiene-

- (a) the development, implementation, and evaluation of oral health promotion programmes;
- (b) the recording of the medical, social, and dental history, examination of patients, and the charting of their oral and dental status;
- (c) the assessment of a patient by means of measuring vital signs, conducting an interview, and oral clinical examination;
- (d) the performance of analogue, digital radiography, and the taking of clinical photographs;
- (e) the making of a diagnosis and the development of an appropriate treatment plan within the scope of the profession of oral hygiene;
- (f) the advising and education of patients about oral self-care practices including, but not limited to, mechanical and chemotherapeutic plaque control, and tobacco cessation;
- (g) advising patients about nutrition and diet, fluorides, and anti-microbial agents (excluding antibiotics) in relation to oral disease prevention;
- (h) the application of topical agents such as caries-preventive agents, remineralising agents, tooth-desensitising agents, surface anaesthetics and plaque-controlling agents;
- (i) the application of pit and fissure sealants, and of minimally invasive procedures such as atraumatic restorative techniques (ART) and sealant restorations, and the placement and removal of rubber dam and matrix bands;
- (j) the performance of debridement, scaling, root-planing, the cleaning of dental implants and the polishing of teeth;
- (k) the treatment of dentine hypersensitivity and cervical abrasion lesions with glass ionomer cements;

- (l) the polishing and recontouring of overhanging restorations;
- (m) the application of topical and local anaesthesia;
- (n) assisting oral health care professionals in the performance of basic and advanced clinical procedures;
- (o) the application of vital tooth whitening techniques and procedures;
- (p) the making of a study cast or digital impressions (intraoral scans) to produce vacuum formed mouth guards; occlusal guards and whitening trays;
- (q) the administration of nitrous oxide;
- (r) the prescription of medication for the treatment of oral conditions relevant to the practice of oral hygiene, and as published in the relevant government gazette as amended from time to time; and
- (s) the performance of the following clinical procedures as prescribed by dentists and dental specialists:
 - (i) taking of cytological smears;
 - (ii) splinting of mobile teeth;
 - (iii) application and removal of periodontal packs;
 - (iv) removal of surgical sutures;
 - (v) placement of temporary restorations as an emergency measure;
 - (vi) performance of temporary cementing of inlays, crowns and bridges;
 - (vii) placement of soft linings in dentures as tissue conditioners;
 - (viii) performance of cephalometric tracings;
 - (ix) relief of trauma caused by intra- and extra-oral appliances, such as the cutting of distal ends of arch wires;
 - (x) the taking of impressions, casting and trimming study and primary work models;
 - (xi) placement and removal of pre-activated orthodontic appliances, attachments and bands;
 - (xii) placement and removal of elastics and ligature wires, the placement and activation of arch wires and the cementing space maintainers;
 - (xiii) the re-cementing of orthodontic retainers; and
 - (xiv) to produce vacuum formed retainers.

Repeal

3. The Regulations Defining the Scope of the Profession of Oral Hygiene as published under *Government Notice* No. 713 in *Government Gazette* No. 40996 of 21 July 2017 are hereby repealed.

Short title

4. These Regulations are called Regulations Defining the Scope of Oral Hygiene, 2021.