

Dental Council

Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003

Notice of Scopes of Practice and Prescribed Qualifications

Issued by the Dental Council pursuant to sections 11 and 12 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003

Dentists

Scope of Practice for General Dental Practice

The scope of practice for general dental practice is the practice of dentistry as set out in the documented “Detailed Scope of Practice for General Dental Practice” produced and published from time to time by the Dental Council of New Zealand.

It involves the maintenance of health through the assessment, diagnosis, management, treatment and prevention of any disease, disorder or condition of the orofacial complex and associated structures within the scope of the practitioner’s approved education, training and competence.

Detailed Scope of Practice for General Dental Practice

The Dental Council of New Zealand defines the practice of dentistry as the maintenance of health through the assessment, diagnosis, management, treatment and prevention of any disease, disorder or condition of the orofacial complex and associated structures within the scope of the practitioner’s approved education, training and competence.

This involves:

- diagnosis of orofacial conditions and the provision of appropriate information to patients of diagnosis, treatment or management options and their consequences
- removing tooth tissue and/or placing materials for the purpose of either the temporary or permanent restoration or replacement of tooth structure or the rehabilitation of the dentition
- performing procedures on the orofacial complex, teeth, and the hard and soft tissues surrounding or supporting the teeth
- extracting teeth
- administration of local analgesia and/or sedative drugs in connection with procedures on the teeth, jaws and the soft tissues surrounding or supporting the teeth
- prescribing medicines appropriate to the scope of practice, the sale or supply of which is restricted by law to prescription by designated health practitioners
- prescribing special tests in the course of dental treatment
- using ionising radiation, for diagnostic purposes, in the course of the practice of dentistry

- performing procedures on any person preparatory to, or for the purpose of, the construction, fitting, adjustment, repair, or renewal of artificial dentures or restorative or corrective dental appliances.

Practice in this context goes wider than clinical dentistry to include teaching, research, and management, given that such roles influence clinical practice and public safety. Areas of dental practice which were not included in a practitioner's training should not be undertaken unless the practitioner has completed appropriate training and practises to the standards required by the relevant Code of Practice.

Prescribed Qualifications

- Bachelor of Dental Surgery, University of Otago; or
- an Australian Dental Council (ADC) accredited undergraduate dental degree from an ADC accredited dental school in Australia; or
- a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CDA) accredited undergraduate dental degree from a CDA accredited dental school in the USA or Canada; or
- a General Dental Council (GDC) accredited undergraduate dental degree from a GDC accredited dental school in the UK, or Commonwealth as listed below:

Dental School

Dates of recognition

Western Cape	Before 1 January 1998
Hong Kong	Before 1 January 2001
Singapore	Before 1 January 2001
Witwatersrand	Before 1 January 2001
Pretoria	Before 1 January 2001
Stellenbosch	Before 1 January 2001
Medical University of South Africa	Between 1 January 1997 And 31 December 2000
Malaysia	Between 1 January 1997 And 31 December 2000;

or

- a five year undergraduate dental degree; a pass in the New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations; or
- a five year undergraduate dental degree; a pass in the Australian Dental Council licensing examinations; or
- a five year undergraduate dental degree; a pass in the USA licensing examinations.

Specialist Scopes of Practice

Scope of Practice for Endodontic Specialists

Endodontic Specialists practise in the branch of dentistry that is concerned with the morphology and pathology of the pulpo-dentine complex and periradicular tissues. Its study and practice encompasses the basic clinical sciences including the biology of the normal pulp, and the aetiology, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of diseases and injuries to the pulp and associated periradicular tissues.

Specialist Endodontics is undertaken by a dental practitioner who possesses additional postgraduate qualifications, training and experience recognised by the Council as appropriate for registration.

Prescribed Qualifications

- MDS (Endodontics) University of Otago; or
- DClinDent (Endodontics) University of Otago; or
- an ADC accredited MDS or MDS^c or DClinDent degree in Endodontics from an ADC accredited dental school in Australia; or
- two years or more of full time equivalent postgraduate training in the specialty at a recognised tertiary academic institution or equivalent; evidence of research activity; a pass in the New Zealand Endodontic Specialist Examination.

Scope of Practice for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Specialists

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Specialists practise in that part of surgery which deals with the diagnosis, surgical and adjunctive treatment of diseases, injuries and defects of the human jaws and associated structures.

Specialist Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is undertaken by a dental practitioner who possesses additional postgraduate qualifications, training and experience recognised by the Council as appropriate for registration.

Prescribed Qualifications

- MDS/MBChB (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery) University of Otago; or
- an ADC accredited MDS or MDS^c or DClinDent in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery from an ADC accredited Australian University; and a medical degree from a medical school listed in the WHO World Directory of Medical Schools or the ECFMG Faimer Directory; or
- Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery)¹; or
- registration in oral and maxillofacial surgery with the General Medical Council, UK; or
- Board certification in oral and maxillofacial surgery in a USA or Canadian state and possession of a medical degree from a medical school listed in the WHO World Directory of Medical Schools or the ECFMG Faimer Directory and dental degree; or
- two years or more of full time equivalent postgraduate training in the specialty at a recognised tertiary academic institution or equivalent; and evidence of research activity; and a pass in the New Zealand Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Specialist Examination.

¹ Conferred from 15 March 2012

Scope of Practice for Oral Medicine Specialists

Oral Medicine Specialists practise in the branch of dentistry that is concerned with the oral health care of patients with chronic and medically related disorders of the oral and maxillofacial region, and with their diagnosis and non-surgical management.

Specialist Oral Medicine is undertaken by a dental practitioner who possesses additional postgraduate qualifications, training and experience recognised by the Council as appropriate for registration.

Prescribed Qualifications

- MDS/MBChB (Oral Medicine) University of Otago; or
- an ADC accredited MDS or MDSc or DCLinDent degree in Oral Medicine from an ADC accredited dental school in Australia; a medical degree from a medical school listed in the WHO World Directory of Medical Schools or the ECFMG Faimer Directory; or
- two years or more of full time equivalent postgraduate training in the specialty at a recognised tertiary academic institution or equivalent; evidence of research activity; a pass in the New Zealand Oral Medicine Specialist Examination.

Scope of Practice for Oral Pathology Specialists

Oral Pathology Specialists practise in the branch of pathology which deals with that nature of diseases affecting the oral, maxillofacial and adjacent regions.

Specialist Oral Pathology is undertaken by a dental practitioner who possesses additional postgraduate qualifications, training and experience recognised by the Council as appropriate for registration.

Prescribed Qualifications

- MDS (Oral Pathology) University of Otago; or
- DCLinDent (Oral Pathology) University of Otago; or
- an ADC accredited MDS or MDSc or DCLinDent degree in Oral Pathology from an ADC accredited dental school in Australia; or
- two years or more of full time equivalent postgraduate training in the specialty at a recognised tertiary academic institution or equivalent; evidence of research activity; a pass in the New Zealand Oral Pathology Specialist Examination.

Scope of Practice for Oral Surgery Specialists

Oral Surgery Specialists practise in the branch of dentistry concerned with the diagnosis and surgical management of conditions affecting the oral and dento-alveolar tissues.

Specialist Oral Surgery is undertaken by a dental practitioner who possesses additional postgraduate qualifications, training and experience recognised by the Council as appropriate for registration.

Prescribed Qualifications

- Specialist registration as an Oral Surgeon with the Dental Council of New Zealand as at 18 September 2004.

Scope of Practice for Orthodontic Specialists

Orthodontic Specialists practise in the branch of dentistry that is concerned with the supervision, guidance and correction of the growing and mature dentofacial structures and includes the diagnosis, prevention, interception and treatment of all forms of malocclusion of the teeth and associated alterations in their surrounding structures.

Specialist Orthodontics is undertaken by a dental practitioner who possesses additional postgraduate qualifications, training and experience recognised by the Council as appropriate for registration.

Prescribed Qualifications

- MDS (Orthodontics) University of Otago; or
- DCLinDent (Orthodontics) University of Otago; or
- an ADC accredited MDS or MDSc or DCLinDent degree in Orthodontics from an ADC accredited dental school in Australia; or
- two years or more of full time equivalent postgraduate training in the specialty at a recognised tertiary academic institution or equivalent; evidence of research activity; a pass in the New Zealand Orthodontic Specialist Examination.

Scope of Practice for Paediatric Dentistry Specialists

Paediatric Dentistry Specialists practise in the branch of dentistry that is concerned with oral health care for children from birth through to adolescence. It includes management of orofacial problems related to medical, behavioural, physical or developmental disabilities. It may include management of adults with special needs.

Specialist Paediatric Dentistry is undertaken by a dental practitioner who possesses additional postgraduate qualifications, training and experience recognised by the Council as appropriate for registration.

Prescribed Qualifications

- MDS (Paediatric Dentistry) University of Otago; or
- DCLinDent (Paediatric Dentistry) University of Otago; or
- an ADC accredited MDS or MDSc or DCLinDent degree in Paediatric Dentistry from an ADC accredited dental school in; or
- two years or more of full time equivalent postgraduate training in the specialty at a recognised tertiary academic institution or equivalent; evidence of research activity; a pass in the New Zealand Paediatric Dentistry Specialist Examination.

Scope of Practice for Periodontic Specialists

Periodontic Specialists practise in the branch of dentistry that is concerned with the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases or abnormalities of the supporting tissues of the teeth or their substitutes.

Specialist Periodontics is undertaken by a dental practitioner who possesses additional postgraduate qualifications, training and experience recognised by the Council as appropriate for registration.

Prescribed Qualifications

- MDS (Periodontics) University of Otago; or
- DClinDent (Periodontics) University of Otago; or
- an ADC accredited MDS or MDSc or DClinDent degree in Periodontics from an ADC accredited dental school in Australia; or
- two years or more of full time equivalent postgraduate training in the specialty at a recognised tertiary academic institution or equivalent; evidence of research activity; a pass in the New Zealand Periodontic Specialist Examination.

Scope of Practice for Prosthodontic Specialists

Prosthodontic Specialists practise in the branch of dentistry that is concerned with diagnosis, treatment planning, rehabilitation and maintenance of patients with a range of clinical conditions involving missing or deficient teeth and/or craniofacial tissues, using biocompatible substitutes.

Specialist Prosthodontics is undertaken by a dental practitioner who possesses additional postgraduate qualifications, training and experience recognised by the Council as appropriate for registration.

Prescribed Qualifications

- MDS (Prosthodontics) University of Otago; or
- DClinDent (Prosthodontics) University of Otago; or
- an ADC accredited MDS or MDSc or DClinDent degree in Prosthodontics from an ADC accredited dental school in Australia; or
- certificate in Prosthodontics from a three year programme CDA accredited dental school in the USA or Canada; evidence of research activity; or
- two years or more of full time equivalent postgraduate training in the specialty at a recognised tertiary academic institution or equivalent; evidence of research activity; a pass in the New Zealand Prosthodontic Specialist Examination.

Scope of Practice for Public Health Dentistry (or Community Dentistry) Specialists

Dental Public Health (Community) Specialists practise in the branch of dentistry that is concerned with the science and art of preventing oral disease, promoting oral health and improving the quality of life through the organised efforts of society.
(NB Existing specialists may apply to the Council to retain the previous title if they wish.)

Specialist Public Health (Community) Dentistry is undertaken by a dental practitioner who possesses additional postgraduate qualifications, training and experience recognised by the Council as appropriate for registration.

Prescribed Qualifications

- MComDent University of Otago; or
- an ADC accredited MDS or MDSc degree in Public Health Dentistry from an ADC accredited dental school in Australia; or
- two years or more of full time equivalent postgraduate training in the specialty at a recognised tertiary academic institution or equivalent; evidence of research activity; a pass in the New Zealand Public Health Dentistry Specialist Examination.

Scope of Practice for Restorative Dentistry Specialists

Restorative Dentistry Specialists practise in the branch of dentistry that is concerned with dental procedures in the dentulous or partially edentulous mouth. This may include operative, endodontic, periodontic, orthodontic and prosthetic procedures.

Specialist Restorative Dentistry is undertaken by a dental practitioner who possesses additional postgraduate qualifications, training and experience recognised by the Council as appropriate for registration.

Prescribed Qualifications

- Specialist registration as a Restorative Dentist with the Dental Council of New Zealand as at 18 September 2004.

Scope of Practice for Special Needs Dentistry Specialists

Special Needs Dentistry Specialists practise in the branch of dentistry that is concerned with the oral health care of people adversely affected by intellectual disability, medical, physical or psychiatric issues.

(NB Special needs specialists who wish to identify their particular expertise in hospital dentistry can apply to the Council to use the specialist title “Special Needs Dentistry (Hospital)”.)

Specialist Special Needs Dentistry is undertaken by a dental practitioner who possesses additional postgraduate qualifications, training and experience recognised by the Council as appropriate for registration.

Prescribed Qualifications

- MDS (Special Needs) University of Otago; or
- DCLinDent (Special Needs) University of Otago; or
- an ADC accredited MDS or MDSc degree in Special Needs Dentistry from an ADC accredited dental school in Australia; or
- two years or more of full time equivalent postgraduate training in the specialty at a recognised tertiary academic institution or equivalent; evidence of research activity; a pass in the New Zealand Special Needs Dentistry Specialist Examination.