

**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**

Dental Technicians

Scope for Dental Technology Practice

The Scope of Practice for Dental Technicians is set out in the documented “Detailed Scope for Dental Technology Practice” produced and published from time to time by the Dental Council.

Dental Technology practice is a subset of the practice of dentistry, and is commensurate with a Dental Technician's approved education, training and competence.

It involves processes and procedures associated with the design, manufacture and repair of fixed and removable oral and extraoral appliances and prostheses prescribed by a practising dental specialist, dentist, clinical dental technician, medical practitioner or other practising health practitioner.

The working relationship between dental technicians and prescribing practising health practitioners is set out in the Dental Council Code of Practice – The Practice of Dental Technology and Clinical Dental Technology and the working relationship within the Practice of Dentistry.

Detailed Scope for Dental Technology Practice

The Dental Council defines the practice of Dental Technology as processes and procedures associated with the design, manufacture and repair of fixed and removable oral and extraoral appliances and prostheses prescribed by a practising dental specialist, dentist, clinical dental technician, medical practitioner or other practising health practitioner.

This involves:

- selection of appropriate dental materials for the design, manufacture and repair of fixed and removable oral and extraoral appliances and prostheses prescribed by a practising dental specialist, dentist, clinical dental technician, medical practitioner or other practising health practitioner.
- processes and procedures associated with the design, manufacture and repair of:
 - complete removable dentures and overdentures.
 - removable partial dentures including precision attachments.
 - fixed and removable orthodontic appliances.
 - crowns and bridges including precision attachments on natural teeth and implants.
 - implant overdentures and implant supported dentures.
 - tissue and implant supported maxillofacial, ocular and auricular appliances and prostheses, and other appliances and prostheses involved in the overall prosthetic rehabilitation of patients.
 - specialist treatment appliances such as, but not limited to: diagnostic stents and radiographic stents, appliances for the treatment of temporomandibular disorders,

appliances for the treatment of speech disorders, appliances for the treatment of sleep disorders and appliances for the treatment of audio disorders.

- undertake shade taking and shade checking, which may include the removal of a pre-loosened temporary restoration and try-in of the permanent restoration, without removal or placement of an abutment, as prescribed by and prior to the final fitting¹ by a dentist or dental specialist.

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

Prescribed Qualifications

- Bachelor of Dental Technology, University of Otago; or
- Bachelor of Dental Technology with Honours, University of Otago; or
- Diploma in Dental Technology, issued by a New Zealand educational institution, and commenced prior to 18 September 2004; or
- an approved overseas dental technology qualification, and a pass in the New Zealand Dental Technicians Registration Examination.

¹ Final fitting for dental technicians means ensuring the patient returns to the prescribing dentist /dental specialist as soon as possible on the same day for the refitting of the temporary or permanent restoration.

Clinical Dental Technicians

Scope for Clinical Dental Technology Practice

The Scope of Practice for Clinical Dental Technicians is set out in the documented “Detailed Scope for Clinical Dental Technology Practice” produced and published from time to time by the Dental Council.

Clinical Dental Technology practice is a subset of the practice of dentistry, and is commensurate with a Clinical Dental Technician's approved education, training and competence.

It involves the scope of practice for Dental Technology, plus the fitting of complete removable dentures and the fitting of some other types of removable dentures and oral and extraoral appliances under specific conditions – as set out in the detailed scope of practice.

The working relationship between clinical dental technicians and prescribing practising health practitioners is set out in the Dental Council Code of Practice – The Practice of Dental Technology and Clinical Dental Technology and the working relationship within the Practice of Dentistry.

Detailed Scope for Clinical Dental Technology Practice

The Dental Council defines the practice of clinical dental technology as:

- processes and procedures associated with the design, manufacture and repair of fixed and removable oral and extraoral appliances and prostheses prescribed by a practising dentist, dental specialist, medical practitioner or other authorised health practitioner as set out in the detailed scope for dental technology practice.
- taking impressions and undertaking other non-invasive clinical procedures involved in the fitting of removable complete dentures and the fitting of some other types of removable dentures and oral and extraoral appliances under specific conditions as set out below and as described below.
- taking impressions and undertaking other non-invasive clinical procedures involved in the trial fitting and repair of removable complete and partial implant overdentures prescribed and the final fitting² by a dentist or dental specialist.

As well as the activities delineated in the detailed scope for dental technology practice, clinical dental technology practice involves:

- taking impressions and undertaking other non-invasive clinical procedures involved in the fitting and relining of removable complete dentures when there are no natural teeth remaining and there is no diseased or unhealed hard or soft tissue.
- taking impressions and undertaking other non-invasive clinical procedures involved in the fitting and relining of removable partial dentures subject to the patient having obtained an oral health certificate from a dentist or dental specialist.
- taking impressions and undertaking other non-invasive clinical procedures involved in the construction of removable complete and partial immediate dentures on the prescription of, and prior to the fitting by a dentist or dental specialist.
- taking impressions, relining and undertaking other non-invasive clinical procedures involved in the construction of removable complete and partial root/tooth overdentures subject to the patient having obtained an oral health certificate from and on the

² Final fitting for clinical dental technicians means ensuring the patient is referred back to the prescribing dentist/dental specialist for the subsequent management and ongoing monitoring of that patient's oral health.

prescription of a dentist or dental specialist, and prior to the final fitting² by a dentist or dental specialist.

- processes and procedures associated with extraoral maxillofacial prostheses, for those with formal training or if they can demonstrate that they have the requisite knowledge and training to undertake this work³:
 - Taking impressions and undertaking other non-invasive clinical procedures involved in the fitting, construction and repair of extraoral maxillofacial prostheses, that are **not** in direct communication with the naso- or the oropharyngeal airway under the prescription of a dentist, dental specialist or medical practitioner, who remains responsible for the clinical outcomes of the patient.
 - Taking impressions of maxillofacial defects that **are** in direct communication with the naso- or the oropharyngeal airway, for those clinical dental technicians with formal training or if they can demonstrate that they have the requisite knowledge and training to undertake this work, and only under the direct clinical supervision of a dentist, dental specialist or medical practitioner qualified to manage an airway emergency, who remains responsible for the clinical outcomes of the patient.
- taking impressions and undertaking other non-invasive clinical procedures involved in the construction of removable complete and partial implant overdentures on the prescription of, and prior to the final fitting² by a dentist or dental specialist. This does not include removal or placement of abutments such as healing, temporary or permanent, or fixture level/subgingival impression copings.
- repairing and/or relining of removable complete and partial implant overdentures on the prescription of and prior to the final fit² by a dentist or dental specialist and appropriate referral when indicated.
- designing, constructing, repairing and supplying appliances for the treatment of sleep disorders only on the prescription of a registered dentist, dental specialist or medical practitioner.
- taking impressions and undertaking other non-invasive procedures involved in the construction of an anti-snoring device, however, only a dentist, dental specialist or medical practitioner, who retains responsibility for the clinical care outcomes, can perform the final fit² of the appliance.
- in relation to the above activities:
 - Obtaining medical and dental histories and consulting with other health practitioners as appropriate.
 - Examination of the oral tissues to ensure that the patient's mouth is fit for purpose and free of disease, disorder or abnormality.
 - Referral of patients to a dentist, dental specialist or medical practitioner when any disease, disorder or abnormality is detected.
 - Referral of patients to a dentist, dental specialist or medical practitioner for a prescription for an oral health certificate and treatment plan where required.
 - Preparation of a treatment plan (in association with a prescription if required) and communicating this to the patient.
 - Oral health education and promotion.

³ Practitioners should demonstrate that they have the requisite knowledge and training to undertake extraoral maxillofacial prostheses work in accordance with the Council's Policy on Advanced and New Areas of Practice.

Practice in this context goes wider than clinical dental technology to include teaching, research, and management, given that such roles influence clinical and technical practice and public safety.

Areas of clinical dental technology 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 standard required by the Dental Council Policy on Advanced Areas of Practice and the Code of Practice on The Practice of Dental Technology and Clinical Dental Technology and the working relationship within the Practice of Dentistry.

Prescribed Qualifications

- Registration in the dental technology scope of practice and a postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Dental Technology (University of Otago).

Additional Scopes of Practice for Clinical Dental Technology Practice

Scope for Implant Overdentures

The Scope for Implant Overdentures in Clinical Dental Technology Practice is set out in the documented “Detailed Scope for Implant Overdentures” produced and published from time to time by the Dental Council.

The scope involves clinical procedures associated with the design, manufacture, trial fitting and repair of removable complete and partial implant overdentures prescribed and fitted by a practising dentist or dental specialist.

Detailed Scope for Implant Overdentures

As well as the activities delineated in the detailed scopes for dental technology and clinical dental technology practice, the additional scope for implant overdenture practice includes:

- taking impressions and undertaking other non-invasive clinical procedures involved in the construction of removable complete and partial implant overdentures on the prescription of, and prior to the final fitting⁴ by, a dentist or dental specialist.
- repairing removable complete and partial implant overdentures prescribed and fitted by a dentist or dental specialist and appropriate referral when indicated.
- relining removable complete and partial implant overdentures on the prescription of, and prior to the final fitting by a dentist or dental specialist⁴.

Prescribed Qualification

- Registration as a Clinical Dental Technician plus evidence of appropriate training, completion or commencement of at least 8 documented cases and a competency attestation from an appropriately qualified dentist or dental specialist⁵.

⁴ Final fitting for clinical dental technicians means ensuring the patient is referred back to the prescribing dentist/dental specialist for the subsequent management and ongoing monitoring of that patient’s oral health.

⁵ The prescribed qualification above was available until 1 July 2007. Thereafter the prescribed qualification for registration in the additional scope of Implant Overdentures will be the successful completion of a Dental Council approved implant overdenture course or a pass in the Dental Council implant overdenture registration examination.