

7 September 2012

Dear Practitioner,

Follow-up Consultation Document

Specialty of Oral Surgery in New Zealand

Released 7 SEPTEMBER 2012
Submissions due 2 NOVEMBER 2012

Introduction

Council considered, at its July 2012 meeting, the submissions received from stakeholders on the issue of the future of the specialty of Oral Surgery in New Zealand. Council received 75 submissions in response to its consultation document. The balance of support received was for Option 2, to retain two separate scopes of practice - Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Oral Surgery.

Council resolved to proceed with Option 2; that is, to retain both the Oral Surgery and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Scopes of Practice as dental specialty scopes of practice in New Zealand.

Council also determined to seek stakeholders' views on possible amendments to the wording of the scopes of practice for Oral Surgery and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and that a further consultation document be released.

Scopes of Practice Definitions

The Oral Surgery Working Party¹ noted that the current definitions of the Oral Surgery and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Scopes of Practice were complex, especially for members of the public to understand². The working party recommended that the scopes of practice definitions be amended to provide greater clarity for the public, but the report also indicated that further information on the full extent of the scope may still be required by practitioners.

¹ The working party members were: Sue Ineson (Chair, Layperson), Dr Brian Whitley (NZAOMS representative), Dr Robin Haisman (Ministry of Health representative), Dr Glenn Kirk (Oral Surgery representative) and Dr Paul Scott (NZDA representative).

² Working party report (2011) Recommendation 3 (p.7).

Council considered the working party’s proposed definitions, and is proposing the following revised scopes of practice definitions, with the principal changes proposed in the areas of non-surgical management of patients.

Current Definition	Proposed Definition
<p>Oral Surgery</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Oral Surgery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dentistry concerned with diagnosis and surgical management of conditions affecting oral and dento-alveolar tissues. • Non-surgical management of patients with acute, chronic and/or medically related disorders of the oral region.
<p>Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgery that deals with the surgical and medical management of diseases, injuries and defects of the human jaws and associated structures. • Non-surgical management of patients with acute, chronic and/or medically related disorders of the oral and maxillofacial region.

Discussion/Consultation points

Council invites all stakeholders to respond to the questions in this document by responding to the following:

1. Do you agree/disagree with the proposed definition of the Oral Surgery Scope of Practice?
2. Do you agree/disagree with the proposed definition of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Scope of Practice?
3. If you have any comments to make on this matter, please do so.

Council therefore seeks any comments on the proposal by **2 November 2012**. Copies of the consultation document have been sent to all dentists, dental specialists, relevant vocational scopes’ registrants (medical specialists), relevant associations and societies, the Ministry of Health, District Health Boards and other organisations with an interest. The document will also be published on Council’s website, with a similar invitation to comment.

Responses should be sent to:

Dental Council

PO Box 10-448

Wellington 6143

Fax: 04 499 1668

Email: consultations@dcnz.org.nz

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marie Warner".

Marie Warner
Chief Executive