

## Supplementary information on registration scenarios as an oral health therapist

The following tables set out possible scenarios and options available to oral health graduates to register in the oral health therapy scope of practice, based on their registration and practising status. For those oral health graduates who are still unsure on what this means for them, please contact the Council by email at [inquiries@dcnz.org.nz](mailto:inquiries@dcnz.org.nz) or by phone on 04 499 4820.

Current status	Dental hygiene scope of practice	Dental therapy scope of practice	Transition registration arrangements
Registered	✓	✓	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="844 735 2020 1054"> <p data-bbox="844 735 2020 799">1. You will <b>AUTOMATICALLY</b> be registered as an oral health therapist, effective from 1 November 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="898 823 2020 919">➤ We will remove your registration from the dental hygiene and dental therapy scopes of practice (and from the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice if you are also registered as an orthodontic auxiliary)</li> <li data-bbox="898 943 2020 1007">➤ A new registration and practising certificate for the oral health therapy scope of practice will be issued to you, effective from 1 November 2017</li> <li data-bbox="898 1031 2020 1054">➤ We expect to issue the new certificates and documentation early November 2017</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
Annual practising certificate (APC)	✓	✓	

Current status	Dental hygiene scope of practice	Dental therapy scope of practice	Options
<p>Registered</p> <p>APC</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✗</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✗</p>	<p>1. You can <b>CHOOSE TO REGISTER</b> as an oral health therapist, but you cannot practise until you have a valid APC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ If you register as an oral health therapist, your registration in the dental hygiene and dental therapy scopes of practice will be removed (and from the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice if you are also registered as an orthodontic auxiliary)</li> <li>➤ A new registration certificate will be issued for the oral health therapy scope of practice</li> </ul> <p>2. To <b>OBTAIN AN APC</b> to practise in the oral health therapy scope of practice, you must meet the Council's recency of practice criteria. Information on the Council's <a href="#">recency of practice policy</a> is available on our website.</p> <p>In summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ You must satisfy the Council that you meet the required standards of competence in the dental hygiene and/or dental therapy scope(s) of practice before you can be issued with an APC</li> <li>➤ If you have not practised in dental hygiene and/or dental therapy and have not held an APC in this scope(s) of practice during the <b>last three years (or 12 months if you are a new graduate)</b>, your APC application will be considered on an individual basis by the Council</li> <li>➤ If you meet the necessary criteria you will be issued with an APC to practise oral health therapy</li> <li>➤ If you only meet recency of practice in some of the scope areas then your scope of practice and APC will have a condition to not perform specific activities (for example if you only have recency in dental hygiene, then you will have a condition placed to not perform dental therapy activities)</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ If you do not meet the Council's recency of practice criteria, or want to remove the condition placed on your scope of practice, you may be required to upskill through continuing education and/or clinical experience under supervision of a Council-approved supervisor, as determined by the Council. Once you have satisfied the Council's requirements, then you will be issued with an APC to practise oral health therapy</li> </ul> <p><b>IMPORTANT:</b> Do not perform any clinical activities on patients to reach recency of practice without a Council-approved supervisor, if you do not have a valid practising certificate to perform those tasks</p> <p>3. If you <b>CHOOSE NOT TO REGISTER</b> as an oral health therapist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ You will remain registered as a dental hygienist and dental therapist, and once you have applied for an APC in one or both of these scopes of practice, you must only practise within the dental hygiene and/or dental therapy scopes of practice, and comply with their professional obligations</li> </ul> <p>This includes administering local anaesthetic under direct clinical supervision under the dental hygiene scope of practice, and requiring a signed working relationship with a dentist/dental specialist for the dental therapy and/or dental hygiene scope(s) of practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ You can choose to register as an oral health therapist at any time</li> </ul>
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Current status	Dental hygiene scope of practice	Dental therapy scope of practice	Options
<p>Registered</p> <p>APC</p> <p>The same options and obligations apply for an oral health graduate registered in both dental hygiene and dental therapy scopes of practice, with an APC in dental therapy only</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✗</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="846 419 2022 1193"> <p>You can <b>CHOOSE TO REGISTER</b> as an oral health therapist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="898 491 2022 587">➤ If you register as an oral health therapist, your registration in the dental hygiene and dental therapy scopes of practice will be removed (and from the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice if you are also registered as an orthodontic auxiliary)</li> <li data-bbox="898 611 2022 707">➤ A new registration and practising certificate will be issued for the oral health therapy scope of practice, <b>with a condition not to perform dental therapy related activities within the oral health therapy scope of practice</b></li> <li data-bbox="898 730 2022 826">➤ Removal of any practising condition will be considered on a case-by-case basis. You need to contact the Council to find out what you need to do to satisfy the Council of your competence</li> <li data-bbox="898 866 2022 930">➤ Upskilling through continuing education and/or clinical experience under supervision of a Council-approved supervisor may be required</li> </ul> <p><b>IMPORTANT:</b> Do not perform any clinical activities on patients to reach recency of practice without Dental Council approval and a Council-approved supervisor if you do not have a valid practising certificate to perform those tasks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="898 1106 2022 1169">➤ Once you have satisfied the Council's requirements, then the condition placed on your oral health therapy scope of practice will be removed</li> </ul> </li> <li data-bbox="846 1209 2022 1377"> <p>If you <b>CHOOSE NOT TO REGISTER</b> as an oral health therapist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="898 1281 2022 1377">➤ You will remain registered as a dental hygienist and dental therapist, and must <b>ONLY</b> practise within the dental hygiene scope of practice and comply with all the hygiene scope of practice obligations</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This includes administering local anaesthetic under direct clinical supervision, and requiring a signed working relationship with a dentist/dental specialist</li> <li>➤ You can choose to register as an oral health therapist at any time</li> </ul> <p>3. You can <a href="#">APPLY FOR AN APC</a> in dental therapy scope of practice, if you meet the Council's <a href="#">recency of practice policy</a>.</p> <p>In summary this means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ You must satisfy the Council that you meet the required standards of competence in the dental therapy scope of practice, before you can be issued with an APC</li> <li>➤ If you have not practised dental therapy and/or held an APC in dental therapy during the <a href="#">last three years (or 12 months if you are a new graduate)</a>, your APC application will be considered on an individual basis by the Council</li> <li>➤ If you are issued with an APC in the dental therapy scope of practice, then you can register and practise in the oral health therapy scope of practice with no conditions</li> <li>➤ If you do not meet the Council's recency of practice criteria, then you may be required to upskill through continuing education and/or clinical experience under supervision of a Council-approved supervisor as determined by the Council</li> </ul> <p><b>IMPORTANT:</b> Do not perform any clinical activities on patients to reach recency of practice without a Council-approved supervisor, if you do not have a valid practising certificate to perform those tasks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Once you have satisfied the Council's requirements, then you will be eligible for an APC in the dental therapy scope of practice. You can then register and practice in the oral health therapy scope of practice, if you choose</li> </ul>
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Current status	Dental hygiene scope of practice	Dental therapy scope of practice	Options
<p>Registered</p> <p>APC</p> <p>The same options and obligations apply for an oral health graduate registered with a current APC in the dental therapy scope of practice only</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✗</p> <p>✗</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="846 421 2022 1182"> <p>You can <b>CHOOSE TO REGISTER</b> as an oral health therapist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="898 491 2022 587">➤ If you register as an oral health therapist, your registration in the dental hygiene scope of practice will be removed (and from the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice if you are also registered as an orthodontic auxiliary)</li> <li data-bbox="898 611 2022 707">➤ A new registration and practising certificate will be issued for the oral health therapy scope of practice, <b>with a condition not to perform dental therapy related activities within the oral health therapy scope of practice</b></li> <li data-bbox="898 730 2022 826">➤ Removal of any practising condition will be considered on a case-by-case basis. You need to contact the Council to find out what you need to do to satisfy the Council of your competence</li> <li data-bbox="898 866 2022 930">➤ Upskilling through continuing education and/or clinical experience under supervision of a Council-approved supervisor may be required</li> </ul> <p><b>IMPORTANT:</b> Do not perform any clinical activities on patients to reach recency of practice without Dental Council approval and a Council-approved supervisor, if you do not have a valid practising certificate to perform those tasks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="898 1106 2022 1169">➤ Once you have satisfied the Council's requirements, then the condition placed on your oral health therapy scope of practice will be removed</li> </ul> </li> <li data-bbox="846 1206 2022 1334"> <p>If you <b>CHOOSE NOT TO REGISTER</b> as an oral health therapist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="898 1273 2022 1337">➤ You will remain registered as a dental hygienist, and must <b>ONLY</b> practise within the dental hygiene scope of practice and comply with all the hygiene scope of practice obligations</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This include administering local anaesthetic under direct clinical supervision, and requiring a signed working relationship with a dentist/dental specialist</li> <li>➤ You can choose to register as an oral health therapist at any time.</li> </ul>
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## Other registration-related questions

Can practitioners registered as a dental hygienist and dental therapist with other New Zealand qualifications, but not one of the oral health therapy prescribed qualifications, register as an oral health therapist?

At this point in time there is no accredited “bridging” programme to attain all the competencies defined for oral health therapy for those practitioners who are registered and practising in both the dental hygiene and dental therapy scopes of practice, but do not hold an eligible oral health qualification (those qualifications listed as prescribed qualifications for the oral health therapy scope of practice). A course of this description would have to undergo an accreditation process, similar to other prescribed qualifications.

Can Australian-registered oral health therapists register as an oral health therapist in New Zealand?

Yes, Australian-registered oral health therapists can apply for registration under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act in the oral health therapy scope of practice in New Zealand, from 1 November 2017 onwards.

Can other overseas-trained oral health graduates register as an oral health therapist?

Yes, overseas trained practitioners that consider their education, training and experience equivalent to the New Zealand oral health therapy prescribed qualifications can apply for registration using the individual assessment pathway under section 15(2) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (from 1 November 2017 onwards). These applications are considered on an individual basis, by a senior academic and the Council. Further information on this process is available on the Council’s website at <http://www.dcnz.org.nz/i-want-to-practise-in-new-zealand/assessment-of-individual-qualifications-training-and-experience/>. This option does not apply for New Zealand obtained qualifications.