

## Council decision on practice standard for advanced and new areas of practice July 2017

As part of the ongoing review of its practice standards, the Council has considered whether a new practice standard for advanced and new areas of practice is needed.

The Council considered the existing practice standards, statements and policies related to this practice area (listed below), alongside the standards framework and other regulatory tools.

- policy on advanced and new areas of practice (May 2007)
- cosmetic dentistry practice standard (May 2009)
- cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) practice standard (May 2011)
- statement on the administration of Botulinum-A by dentists (amended July 2016).

The Council formed the view that the standards framework and scope of practice requirements sufficiently cover, at a principle level, the standards embodied in the above documents.

The Council initiated a targeted consultation with the key professional associations, educational institutions, the Ministry of Health, and the Health and Disability Commissioner. The Council considered all of the feedback, and had further discussions with those who requested clarification in some areas.

The Council concluded that:

- There is no longer a need to retain the four listed documents as the standards framework, related practice standards, and scopes of practice adequately describe practitioner obligations when practising in these areas.
- There is no need to develop a new practice standard for advanced areas of practice.

The four documents have been rescinded with immediate effect, and have been removed from the Council website.

The Council considers that rescinding the above documents will have very little impact on every day practice for oral health practitioners, but most importantly pose no greater risk to patient safety.

What follows are some key messages to enable you to determine what this change means for your practice.

### Understand your obligations related to advanced and new areas of practice

- ✓ The ethical principles and professional standards of the standards framework apply to all areas of your practice—including advanced or new areas. Practise within your professional knowledge, skills and competence; and only carry out a task or type of treatment if you have the knowledge and skills to do so competently within your scope of practice.
- ✓ Recognise the relevance of particular practice standards when undertaking advanced or new areas of practice, in particular the informed consent, advertising and record keeping practice standards.
- ✓ Be aware of your obligations under the Health and Disability Commissioner's Code of Rights, especially in relation to the patient's right to be fully informed, their right to make an informed choice and give informed consent, and their right to services of an appropriate standard.

## Education and training for advanced and new areas of practice

- ✓ You are responsible for ensuring you are sufficiently educated and trained in any advanced or new area of practice you are planning to undertake, to enable you to provide:
  - the necessary information to the patient to ensure informed consent
  - competent and safe care which is appropriate for the patient's particular circumstances.
- ✓ You need to ensure that the education and training you undertake is sufficient to enable full understanding of the advanced or new area of practice, including the potential benefits when compared with other more established practices, and the associated risks.
- ✓ You need to apply professional judgement to:
  - determine how best to acquire and maintain competence in the areas in which you practise
  - gauge your own competence and limitations, and refer appropriately when necessary
  - provide suitable evidence of your competence to the Council, when questioned. This could include evidence of education and training undertaken, or logged experience.

### *Commentary:*

- The need for practitioners to complete education and/or training to undertake advanced and new areas of practice is implicit in the requirements for competence and ongoing learning expressed in the standards framework; supported by the scope of practice definitions.
  - The standards framework requires practitioners to practise competently and safely, and keep their professional knowledge and skills up-to-date (professional standards 8 and 11, and associated guidance).
  - The scopes of practice indicate that practitioners are expected to complete additional training to practise in areas not previously covered in their training. Scope activities are commensurate with the practitioner's approved education, training and competence.
- Activities covered under the description of advanced and new areas of practice are wide in nature and complexity, and the level or type of education and training required to perform these activities competently and safely may differ significantly. Advanced and new areas could range from a new material, technique or technology, to more complex treatment such as orthodontic care provided by general dentists.
- It is considered that appropriate education and training would include exposure to any clinical tasks associated with the new/advanced area of practice to a level that enables practitioner competence and confidence. It is suggested that peers practising in the area may be a useful source for feedback and/or mentoring until a practitioner is competent and confident for independent practice.
- Be familiar with the legislation and regulations that govern radiology in dental practice, including the Ministry of Health Code of practice for dental radiology, and code of practice for diagnostic and interventional radiology; and the Radiation Safety Act 2016.

## Administration of Botulinum toxin type A and dermal fillers by dentists and dental specialists

- ✓ To administer Botulinum toxin type A and dermal fillers competently and safely you must have the appropriate education and training, and maintain competence.

This requires a full understanding of:

- their effects—both short and long term
- their appropriate use within the scope of practice for dentistry
- contraindications for use
- complications – short and long term; and their management
- competency in the clinical skills required for safe administration.

The same principles that apply to education and training in advanced or new practice areas, as described above, also apply.

- ✓ You must administer Botulinum toxin type A and dermal fillers within the scope of practice for general dentistry, which limits their use to “**the orofacial complex and associated structures**”.

The Dental Council statement: *Administration of Botulinum-A by dentists* was originally developed in conjunction with the New Zealand Dental Association (2005). The Council recognised that the statement was considered out of date, and was challenged by some. As an interim measure the Council removed the references to *nasolabial folds and the perioral area* in July 2016, until a review of the statement could be completed as part of this broader review.

The use of dermal fillers by dentists was considered alongside the use of Botulinum toxin type A.

*Commentary:*

- Dentists can administer Botulinum toxin type A and dermal fillers safely within their scope of practice, provided they have the appropriate education and training, and maintain competence.
- In New Zealand the scope of practice for general dentistry is defined 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.*
- It is the Council’s view that there is nothing in the wording of the scope of practice for dentists that would necessarily confine the use of Botulinum toxin type A to the nasolabial folds and perioral area; and understands that it may be clinically inappropriate to confine its use in this way.
- The scope of practice would confine the use of Botulinum toxin type A and dermal fillers to “the orofacial complex and associated structures”.
- The Council considers the administration of these substances by dental hygienists, oral health therapists, dental therapists or clinical dental technicians is **outside their scope of practice.**