

## Competence to practise policy

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| Approved by   | Council   |
| Date approved | June 2015 |

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a consistent and fair approach to assessing whether an applicant for registration as an oral health practitioner has the competence to practise safely and appropriately.

### Scope

This policy applies to all applicants for registration, including New Zealand graduates and returning oral health practitioners.

### Policy

1. When determining whether an applicant for registration is competent to practise, the Dental Council will consider the following matters:
  - a) The applicant's training, experience and formal qualifications (including when the applicant undertook their relevant formal qualifications);
  - b) Recency of practise (has the applicant practised in the last 3 years);
  - c) Whether the nature of the work in the country(s) that the applicant has worked, would be comparable to contemporary practice in New Zealand;
  - d) Evidence of appropriate continuing professional development within the last 3 years;
  - e) Referee and assessor reports;
  - f) Where the applicant is applying for registration in a specialist scope of practice, whether the applicant has practised the speciality to the required level in the last three years;
  - g) Where the applicant is applying for registration in a specialist scope of practice, whether the applicant has appropriate skills and knowledge of general dental practice;
  - h) What type of practice the applicant will be entering (sole, associate, employee etc), and the nature of the employment arrangement; and
  - i) Whether the applicant needs to pass NZDREX or the Specialist Registration Examination or any other examination or assessment set or recognised by Council to satisfy Council of their competence to practise.
2. Applicants with a prescribed undergraduate qualification or who are registered in the general scope of dental practice will normally be considered to have satisfied requirement 1(a) above.

3. Council may require other applicants to sit and pass all or part of the NZDREX general dental examination or any other Council approved examination or assessment to demonstrate the appropriate level of skills and knowledge of general dental practice.
4. If an oral health practitioner has not practised in three years (1(b) above), and/or held an APC within the three years, the Dental Council's Policy on Recency of Practise will apply.
5. After considering the factors above, the Dental Council must be satisfied that the oral health practitioner is competent to practise.

## Definitions

**Competence:** A competent practitioner is one who applies knowledge, skills, attitudes, communication and judgement to the delivery of appropriate oral health care in accordance with the scope of practice within which they are registered.

**Performance:** Performance is the output, and its measurement assesses how well a practitioner is actually working.

## Responsibilities

**Dental Council:** Determine whether applicants for registration are competent.

**Oral Health Practitioner:** Provide information sought by the Dental Council on his/her competence.

## References

1. Registration as an oral health practitioner in New Zealand.
2. Policy on the New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations.
3. Policy on Recency of Practice.