

## Scope of practice for dental hygiene

The practice of dental hygiene is the prevention and non-surgical treatment of periodontal diseases through the provision of oral health assessment, diagnosis, management and treatment of any disease, disorder or condition of the orofacial complex and associated structures in accordance with a dental hygienist's approved education, training, experience and competence.

A dental hygienist guides patients' personal care with the aim of achieving and maintaining oral health as an integral part of general health.

The scope of practice encompasses the dental hygienist competencies.

Practice in this context goes wider than clinical dental hygiene practice to include teaching, research, and management, given that such roles influence clinical practice and public safety. Areas of dental hygiene 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 standards required by the Standards Framework for Oral Health Practitioners.

## Prescribed qualifications for the scope of practice for dental hygiene

### New Zealand

- Bachelor of Oral Health, University of Otago before 1 November 2017
- Bachelor of Health Science in Oral Health, Auckland University of Technology before 1 November 2017
- Certificate in Dental Hygiene issued by Otago Polytechnic and approved experience in the provision of oral health services within the scope of dental hygiene practice, and Dental Council approved courses for Administering Local Anaesthetic, Undertaking Orthodontic Procedures, Intra-oral Radiography and Extra-oral Radiography
- New Zealand Defence Force training programme in Dental Hygiene and approved experience in the provision of oral health services within the scope of dental hygiene practice, and Dental Council approved courses for Administering Local Anaesthetic, Undertaking Orthodontic Procedures, Intra-oral Radiography and Extra-oral Radiography
- Diploma in Dental Hygiene issued by a New Zealand educational institution, and Dental Council approved courses for Administering Local Anaesthetic, Undertaking Orthodontic Procedures, Intra-oral Radiography and Extra-oral Radiography
- Diploma in Dental Hygiene, University of Otago (Orthodontic Procedures conferred from 2002) and Dental Council approved courses for Administering Local Anaesthetic and Extra-oral Radiography
- Bachelor of Health Science (Endorsement in Dental Hygiene), University of Otago.

### Australia

- an Australian Dental Council accredited programme that included education in Administering Local Anaesthetic, Undertaking Orthodontic Procedures, Intra-oral Radiography and Extra-oral Radiography and registration in Australia<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Before 30 June 2010, and before 17 October 2010 for Western Australia

- a Dental Board of Australia approved programme of study providing a qualification for the purposes of registration in dental hygiene in Australia that included education in Administering Local Anaesthetic, Undertaking Orthodontic Procedures, Intra-oral Radiography and Extra-oral Radiography and registration in Australia<sup>2</sup>.

#### General Dental Council (GDC) accredited dental schools in the UK

- a General Dental Council (GDC) accredited undergraduate dental hygiene degree or diploma from the United Kingdom, and registration with the GDC, and Dental Council approved courses for Administering Local Anaesthetic, Undertaking Orthodontic Procedures, Intra-oral Radiography and Extra-oral Radiography
- a Certificate or Diploma in Dental Hygiene conferred by the GDC, registration with the GDC, and Dental Council approved courses for Administering Local Anaesthetic, Undertaking Orthodontic Procedures, Intra-oral Radiography and Extra-oral Radiography.

#### USA or Canada

- an undergraduate dental hygiene degree or diploma or undergraduate dental degree and a pass in the USA National Board Dental Hygiene Examination or Canadian National Dental Hygiene Certification Examination, and  
a pass in a USA or Canadian regional or state board dental hygiene clinical examination, and  
registration with a USA or Canadian dental authority, and  
Dental Council approved courses for Administering Local Anaesthetic, Undertaking Orthodontic Procedures, Intra-oral Radiography and Extra-oral Radiography
- a Commission on Dental Accreditation in the USA or Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada accredited undergraduate dental hygiene degree or diploma, and  
a pass in the USA National Board Dental Hygiene Examination or Canadian National Dental Hygiene Certification Examination, and  
registration with a USA or Canadian dental authority, and  
Dental Council approved courses for Administering Local Anaesthetic, Undertaking Orthodontic Procedures, Intra-oral Radiography and Extra-oral Radiography.

#### Other

- an undergraduate dental hygiene degree or diploma, or undergraduate dental degree, and a pass in the Dental Council Dental Hygiene Registration Examination.

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<sup>2</sup> From 1 July 2010 onwards, and 18 October 2010 onwards for Western Australia