

Scope of practice for general dental practice

General dental practice encompasses the practice of dentistry in 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 in accordance with a dentist's approved education, training, experience and competence.

The scope of practice encompasses the dentist competencies.

Practice in this context goes wider than clinical dentistry to include teaching, research, and management, given that such roles influence clinical practice and public safety.

Areas of general dental 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 general dental practice

New Zealand

- Bachelor of Dental Surgery, University of Otago
- Bachelor of Dental Surgery with Honours, University of Otago.

Australia

- an Australian Dental Council (ADC) accredited programme ¹
- a Dental Board of Australia approved programme of study providing a qualification for the purpose of registration in general dentistry in Australia²
- a five-year undergraduate dental degree and a pass in the Australian Dental Council licensing examinations.

General Dental Council (GDC) accredited dental schools in the UK and Commonwealth countries

- a GDC accredited undergraduate dental degree from a GDC accredited dental school in the UK, or Commonwealth as listed below.

Dental School	Dates of recognition – student must have completed and satisfied all programme requirements before the end-date listed below
Western Cape	Before 1 January 1998
Hong Kong	Before 1 January 2001
Singapore	Before 1 January 2001
Witwatersrand	Before 1 January 2001
Pretoria	Before 1 January 2001
Stellenbosch	Before 1 January 2001
Medical University of South Africa	1 January 1997 - 31 December 2000
Malaysia	1 January 1997 - 31 December 2000

¹ Before 30 June 2010, and before 17 October 2010 for Western Australia

² From 1 July 2010 onwards, and 18 October 2010 onwards for Western Australia

USA and Canada

- an accredited undergraduate dental degree from the Commission on Dental Accreditation in the USA or the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada
- a five-year undergraduate dental degree and a pass in the USA licensing examinations
- a five-year undergraduate dental degree and a pass in the National Dental Examining Board of Canada Equivalency Examination Process³

Other

- a five-year undergraduate dental degree and a pass in the New Zealand Dental Registration Examinations⁴.

³ A pass in any of the National Dental Examining Board of Canada Equivalency Examinations after 3 March 2014

⁴ Administered by the National Dental Examining Board of Canada on behalf of the Dental Council since August 2015