

Scope of practice for orthodontic auxiliary

Orthodontic auxiliary practice is a subset of dental hygiene practice that involves implementing orthodontic treatment plans prepared by a dentist or orthodontist, by performing orthodontic procedures and providing oral health education and advice on the care and maintenance of orthodontic appliances in accordance with an orthodontic auxiliary's approved education, training, experience and competence.

Orthodontic auxiliaries practise under the direction of the dentist or orthodontist who is responsible for the patient's clinical care outcomes and who is on-site at the time care is provided.

The scope of practice encompasses the orthodontic auxiliary competencies.

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

New Zealand

- Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting, New Zealand Association of Orthodontists: Orthodontic Auxiliary Training Programme¹
- Bachelor of Oral Health, University of Otago and registration in the Scope of Dental Hygiene Practice before 1 November 2017
- Bachelor of Health Science in Oral Health, Auckland University of Technology conferred from 2011, and registration in the Scope of Dental Hygiene Practice before 1 November 2017
- Bachelor of Health Science (Endorsement in Dental Hygiene), University of Otago conferred from 2002, and registration in the Scope of Dental Hygiene Practice
- Diploma in Dental Hygiene, University of Otago conferred from 2002, and registration in the Scope of Dental Hygiene Practice, and Dental Council approved course for Extra-oral Radiography.

Other

- Graduate Certificate of Orthodontic Assisting, Academy of Orthodontic Assisting, and possession of a dental therapy, dental hygiene or dentistry qualification and approved experience in the provision of orthodontic auxiliary services under the direction and supervision of a dentist or dental specialist who can attest to competency².

¹ The Dental Council approved this prescribed qualification on 15 February 2010

² The Dental Council approved this prescribed qualification on 10 July 2006