

3 May 2012

Dear practitioner,

**Proposed Correction to the Orthodontic Auxiliary Scope of Practice
Prescribed Qualification - Diploma in Dental Hygiene, University of Otago**

The purpose of this communication is to advise practitioners of Council's intention to revise the prescribed qualification for the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice, by adding to the Diploma in Dental Hygiene, University of Otago, the requirement for a Dental Council approved course for extra-oral radiography, as this was inadvertently omitted during the September 2011 consultation process.

Background

With the merging, in March 2011, of the previous "additional" scopes of practice into the "general" scopes of practice, for the dental hygiene, dental therapy and orthodontic auxiliary scopes of practice, the requirement for the completion of Dental Council approved courses for those practitioners that were not registered in the respective additional scopes of practice at the time, were introduced into the prescribed qualifications.

The following qualification was approved, and gazetted, by Council for the dental hygiene scope of practice:

1. 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** [*own emphasis*].

The revised qualification included the requirement to complete these courses as the original dental hygiene training programme did not include *administering local anaesthesia* and the *taking of extra-oral radiography*.

In September 2011, Council issued a consultation on the proposed changes to the Dental Hygiene Scope of Practice - orthodontic procedures, where it was proposed that three of the dental hygiene prescribed qualifications be added to the orthodontic auxiliary prescribed qualifications.

One of the qualifications included in the consultation document was:
Diploma in Dental Hygiene, University of Otago, conferred from 2002 and registration in the Scope of Dental Hygiene Practice.
Administrative change required

The proposed changes were approved by Council in December 2011, and gazetted on 22 December 2011. Unfortunately, an administrative oversight occurred with the transfer of this qualification from the dental hygiene scope of practice to the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice and the requirement for “a Dental Council approved course for *extra-oral radiography*” was erroneously omitted. The requirement for a Dental Council approved course for *local anaesthetic* is not required, as the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice does not include administering local anaesthesia.

The Council proposes to correct the inconsistency by adding the requirement for a Dental Council approved course for extra-oral radiography to the prescribed qualification for the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice, as follows:

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.

In the Council’s view this change is not introducing a new principle into the prescribed qualification for the orthodontic auxiliary scope of practice, as the dental hygiene qualification, Diploma in Dental Hygiene, University of Otago, already requires the completion of a Dental Council approved course for extra-oral radiography.

Accordingly the Council is advising:

- all dental hygiene registrants with the University of Otago Diploma in Dental Hygiene qualification with exclusions on taking extra-oral radiography,
- the New Zealand Dental Hygiene Association;
- the New Zealand Association of Orthodontists;
- the University of Otago; and
- the Ministry of Health,

of Council’s intent to correct this administrative error and to issue a new Notice.

Council is inviting any stakeholder concerned about the proposed correction to advise us of their concern by **31 May 2012**.

Any communication in this regard should be sent to:

Dental Council
PO Box 10-448
Wellington 6143
Fax: 04 499 1668
Email: consultations@dcnz.org.nz

Yours sincerely



Marie Warner
Chief Executive