

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 ~~this scope of practice~~ ~~and~~ a dentist's approved education, training, experience and competence.

The scope of practice encompasses the dentist competencies.

~~General dental practice includes:~~

- ~~• diagnosing orofacial conditions and providing appropriate information to patients of diagnosis, treatment or management options and their consequences~~
- ~~• removing tooth tissue and/or placing materials for either the temporary or permanent restoration or replacement of tooth structure or the rehabilitation of the dentition~~
- ~~• performing procedures on the orofacial complex, teeth, and the hard and soft tissues surrounding or supporting the teeth~~
- ~~• extracting teeth~~
- ~~• administering local analgesia and/or sedative drugs in connection with procedures on the teeth, jaws and the soft tissues surrounding or supporting the teeth~~
- ~~• prescribing medicines appropriate to the scope of practice, the sale or supply of which is restricted by law to prescription by designated health practitioners~~
- ~~• prescribing special tests in the course of dental treatment~~
- ~~• using ionising radiation, for diagnostic purposes, in the course of the practice of dentistry~~
- ~~• performing procedures on any person to prepare for or carry out the construction, fitting, adjustment, repair, or renewal of artificial dentures or restorative or corrective dental appliances.~~

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.