

Council guidance on advanced and new areas of practice, including the administration of botulinum toxin type A and dermal fillers

Updated June 2023

In July 2017 the Dental Council (the Council) issued updated guidance on advanced and new areas of practice, and specific guidance on the administration of botulinum toxin type A and dermal fillers by dentists.

The Council has now reviewed the guidance and made updates to it that relate to the administration of botulinum toxin type A by dentists and dental specialists, oral health therapists and dental hygienists.

While the Council acknowledges the growing demand for cosmetic treatments, it considers that ideally oral health practitioners should primarily focus on the provision of oral health care, to contribute towards improved health outcomes and equity for the people of Aotearoa New Zealand.

The updated guidance is provided below.

Advanced and new areas of practice

Understand your obligations related to advanced and new areas of practice

- ✓ The ethical principles and professional standards of the standards framework apply to all areas of your practice—including advanced or new areas. Practise within your professional knowledge, skills and competence; and only carry out a task or type of treatment if you have the knowledge and skills to do so competently **within your scope of practice**.
- ✓ Recognise the relevance of particular practice standards when undertaking advanced or new areas of practice, in particular the informed consent, advertising and record keeping practice standards.
- ✓ Be aware of your obligations under the Health and Disability Commissioner's Code of Rights, especially in relation to the patient's right to be fully informed, their right to make an informed choice and give informed consent, and their right to services of an appropriate standard.

Education and training for advanced and new areas of practice

- ✓ You are responsible for ensuring you are sufficiently educated and trained in any advanced or new area of practice you are planning to undertake, to enable you to provide:
 - the necessary information to the patient to ensure informed consent
 - competent and safe care which is appropriate for the patient's particular circumstances.
- ✓ You need to ensure that the education and training you undertake is sufficient to enable full understanding of the advanced or new area of practice, including the potential benefits when compared with other more established practices, and the associated risks.
- ✓ You need to apply professional judgement to:
 - determine how best to acquire and maintain competence in the areas in which you practise
 - gauge your own competence and limitations, and refer appropriately when necessary
 - provide suitable evidence of your competence to the Council, when questioned. This could include evidence of education and training undertaken, or logged experience.

Commentary:

- The need for practitioners to complete education and/or training to undertake advanced and new areas of practice is implicit in the requirements for competence and ongoing learning expressed in the standards framework; supported by the scope of practice definitions.
 - The standards framework requires practitioners to practise competently and safely, and keep their professional knowledge and skills up-to-date (professional standards 8 and 11, and associated guidance).
 - The scopes of practice indicate that practitioners are expected to complete additional training to practise in areas not previously covered in their training. Scope activities are commensurate with the practitioner's approved education, training and competence.
- Activities covered under the description of advanced and new areas of practice are wide in nature and complexity, and the level or type of education and training required to perform these activities competently and safely may differ significantly. Advanced and new areas could range from a new material, technique or technology, to more complex treatment such as orthodontic care provided by general dentists.
- It is considered that appropriate education and training would include exposure to any clinical tasks associated with the new/advanced area of practice to a level that enables practitioner competence and confidence. It is suggested that peers practising in the area may be a useful source for feedback and/or mentoring until a practitioner is competent and confident for independent practice.
- Be familiar with the legislation and regulations that govern radiology in dental practice, including the Ministry of Health Code of practice for dental radiology, and code of practice for diagnostic and interventional radiology; and the Radiation Safety Act 2016.

Administration of botulinum toxin type A and dermal fillers by dentists, dental specialists, oral health therapists and dental hygienists

Education and training requirements:

- ✓ To administer botulinum toxin type A and dermal fillers competently and safely you must have the appropriate education and training, and maintain competence.

This requires a full understanding of:

- Facial anatomy and the facial ageing process
- Skin anatomy and physiology
- Facial assessment
- Pharmacology and effects—both short and long term
- Appropriate use within the scope of practice for dentistry, oral health therapy or dental hygiene (as relevant to the practitioner)
- Contraindications for use
- Risks and their mitigation
- Side effects and complications – short and long term; and their management

AND

- Competency in the clinical skills required for safe administration.
- ✓ Education and training is expected to be a combination of theoretical and hands-on learning, and assessment. Clinical supervision by another experienced practitioner in these procedures is recommended for the first few treatments performed immediately after completion of education and training.
 - ✓ Where not included in your education and training that enabled registration in Aotearoa New Zealand, the administration of botulinum toxin type A and dermal fillers is considered an advanced and new area of practice for you.
 - ✓ You are reminded of your obligations related to advanced and new areas of practice, as described above. This includes the principles that apply to education and training in advanced or new practice areas.
 - ✓ You must confine your use of botulinum toxin type A and dermal fillers to **the orofacial complex and associated structures**.
 - ✓ You are reminded of your obligations related to informed consent. It is expected you would only provide these treatments for competent patients over the age of 16. Further information can be found in our [informed consent practice standard](#).

Commentary on administration of botulinum toxin type A and dermal fillers by oral health therapists and dental hygienists

When an oral health therapist or dental hygienist administers botulinum toxin type A and/or dermal fillers:

- As botulinum toxin type A is a prescription medicine in New Zealand, a standing order is required to enable an oral health therapist or dental hygienist to administer it. *Standing Order Guidelines* are published by the Ministry of Health: <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/standing-order-guidelines>
- Practitioners involved in the standing order are reminded of the following responsibilities under the guidelines, within this context.

The issuer retains overall responsibility to:

- Ensure the legislative requirements for the standing order are met
- Ensure that anyone operating under the standing order has the appropriate training and competency to fulfil the role
- Countersign, audit and review the standing order.

People working under the standing order must have:

- The competency and training to be able to make an assessment that the standing order applies to the presenting patient
- The competency to administer the medicine
- The knowledge to assess the contraindications and/or exclusions.

- Council expects that the issuer of the standing order (the prescriber, most likely a dentist) would themselves be educated, trained and competent in the use of botulinum toxin type A.
- Dermal fillers are currently classified as a medical device in New Zealand, and so do not require a prescription for use, this means a standing order is not required by law. However, with the primary aim of safeguarding the public, the Council requires a similar arrangement as a standing order to be in place that enables practitioners to fulfil the same responsibilities as those described above regarding knowledge, training and competency.
- Council expects that both practitioners in this arrangement are educated, trained and competent in the use of dermal fillers.