

## Model Scope of Clinical Practice – Forensic Odontology

This document has been prepared in consultation with the State Scope of Clinical Practice Forensic Odontology Working Group, which includes broad representation of Forensic Odontologists.

Information about the State Scope of Clinical Practice Unit and the project to develop Model Scopes of Clinical Practice (SoCPs) for use within NSW Health facilities can be found here: [www.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/ssocpu](http://www.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/ssocpu).

The Model SoCPs are intended to assist Local Health Districts and Specialty Networks to achieve clarity and consistency in the way practitioners' scope of clinical practice is defined, whilst still allowing for local decisions to be made in accordance with the facility's need and its role delineation. The Model SoCPs will provide a measure of expert input and advice when considering the credentials appropriate for the practice of particular specialties and sub-specialties.

Forensic Odontologists require a degree in dentistry and Fellowship in Forensic Odontology from the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Faculty of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology (or approval through the Qualification Equivalence Pathway) to gain registration as a Forensic Odontologist with the Dental Board of Australia.

Please note that the Forensic Odontology SoCP as presented in the eCredential system may appear differently to the format shown here.

Queries regarding the Model Scope of Clinical Practice for Forensic Odontology document can be submitted to the State Scope of Clinical Practice Unit on the contact details below:

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### DOCUMENT CONTROL

| Status    | Date           | Authorised         | Change                   |
|-----------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Version 1 | 9 October 2019 | Dep. Sec. PCG, MoH | Approved initial version |

| <b>Core Scope of Clinical Practice for the Specialty of Forensic Odontology</b>   | <b>Core Scope of Clinical Practice granted?</b>   |
|---|---|
| <p>Forensic Odontology is the branch of dentistry that applies dental science to the law. It involves the recognition, examination, documentation, preservation, interpretation and analysis of dental and oro-facial evidence; and presentation of opinion related to this evidence to the courts of law.</p> <p>Forensic Odontologists support the medico-legal and judicial systems, especially in relation to deaths that fall within the jurisdiction of the NSW Coroners Act.</p> <p>Core scope of clinical practice includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Foundation knowledge of forensic odontology               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Roles and responsibilities of the forensic odontologist</li> <li>b. Principles of management of forensic odontology cases</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Anatomy and morphology               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Anatomy of the head and neck including dissection</li> <li>b. Comparative dental and oral anatomy</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Forensic pathology               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Post-mortem changes</li> <li>b. Recognition of oral pathology</li> <li>c. Different causes of sudden death in adults and children</li> <li>d. Pathology of trauma to the head and neck with particular reference to the examination, recording and analysis thereof</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Human identification               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Principles of human identification</li> <li>b. Respect social and cultural aspects of identification</li> <li>c. Collection and recording of ante-and post-mortem information</li> <li>d. Dental reconciliation (manual and computer)</li> <li>e. Use of DNA in identification</li> <li>f. Use of radiographic imagery in identification</li> <li>g. Use of CT (MPR) imagery in identification</li> <li>h. Demonstration of appropriate presentation of evidence</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Mortuary techniques               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Dental post-mortem including conditions such as intact, incineration, immersion, decomposition, fragmentation and skeletonisation</li> <li>b. Assessment of oro-facial trauma</li> <li>c. Carry out forensic dental radiography – analogue, digital</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. Dental age estimation               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Detail of dental development</li> <li>b. Recognition of age changed related to the teeth and jaws</li> <li>c. Understanding of commonly used dental age estimation methods</li> </ol> </li> <li>7. Bite mark evidence               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Recognition and interpretation of patterned injuries</li> <li>b. Identification and discussion of cases involving child abuse</li> </ol> </li> </ol> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes with exclusions</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b></p> |

## Model Scope of Clinical Practice for Forensic Odontology

| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. Recognition of tooth marks on non-human substrates</li> <li>d. Collection and presentation of evidence, including saliva, DNA and photography</li> <li>e. Understanding of the limitations and reliability of bite mark evidence</li> </ul> <p>8. Disaster victim identification (DVI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Interpol and AuSFO guidelines</li> <li>b. Phases of DVI</li> <li>c. Role of the odontologist at the scene and in the mortuary</li> <li>d. Collection of ante-mortem information</li> <li>e. Use of computer programs appropriate to DVI</li> <li>f. Principles of and carry out reconciliation processes</li> </ul> <p>9. Physical anthropology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Application of principles and practices of physical anthropology in order to assist in determining ancestry, sex, age estimation and comparative anatomy</li> <li>b. Dental examination of ancient remains</li> </ul> <p>10. Applied forensic sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Crime scene protocols</li> <li>b. Concepts from forensic sciences</li> </ul> <p>Forensic Odontologists deal with individuals of all ages.</p> <p><b>See 'specific credentialing' for items not included within 'core'.</b></p> |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Qualifications Required for Core Scope of Clinical Practice</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Qualifications Met?</b></span>   |   |
| Eligible for registration with the Dental Board of Australia as a Forensic Odontologist/Forensic Dentist.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No            |
| <p><b>This document is focused on defining qualifications related to competency to exercise scope of clinical practice. The applicant must also adhere to any additional organisational, regulatory, or accreditation requirements that the organisation is obliged to meet.</b></p>   |   |
| <b>Service Role Delineation</b>  |   |
| <p><b>Note that scope of clinical practice granted may only be exercised at the site(s) and/or setting(s) that have sufficient space, equipment, staffing, and other resources required to support the scope of clinical practice. For more information, see <a href="http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/roledelineation">www.health.nsw.gov.au/roledelineation</a></b></p>  |   |
| <b>Forensic Odontology at [location] is a level X service.</b>   | <b>Patient Age Limitation for Forensic Odontology at [facility]</b> |
| <p><i>Optional free-text field for LHD/SNs to add more information about a department's role delineation, if desired.</i></p>  |   |

| <b>Clinical Duties</b> |   |   |
|------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Admitting</b>       | May admit patients within the designated specialty under the practitioner's own name. May accept transfer of care to the nominated practitioner. (Restricted admitting rights means that limited rights can be exercised within specific parameters.) | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Res-<br/>tricted</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> |
| <b>On-call</b>         | Participation in the appropriate specialty on-call roster and other on-call rosters as required and requested.  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>   |
| <b>Consulting</b>      | May be invited for consultation on patients admitted (or being treated) by another practitioner.  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>   |
| <b>Diagnostic</b>      | May sign out or authorise reports on diagnostic investigations requested by another practitioner.   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>   |
| <b>Outpatients</b>     | May hold an outpatient or privately referred non-inpatient clinic in the practitioner's own name or to participate in a multidisciplinary clinic taking final responsibility for the care of patients attending.                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>   |
| <b>Procedural</b>      | May open an operating theatre or a day procedure unit.  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>   |
| <b>Teaching</b>        | May access patients for the purpose of teaching.  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>   |
| <b>Research</b>        | May participate in research projects or clinical trials.  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>   |

**Scope of Clinical Practice Requiring Specific Credentialing**

This section describes procedures or practices which require specific credentialing for safe and effective performance, but which are within the practice of Forensic Odontology. Specific credentialing and determination of a specific scope of clinical practice is required where it cannot be reasonably assumed the practitioner’s qualifications include the specific competency. The gaining of the specific competency may involve additional training, experience, or both training and experience. Requests for specific scope of clinical practice should be specified in the credentialing application.

| Areas of Practice Requiring Specific Credentialing                                       | Qualifications/experience required | Standards/Guidelines | Patient Age Limitations | Specific Scope of Clinical Practice Granted? |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| <i>No areas requiring specific credentialing were identified for Forensic Odontology</i> |                                    |                      |                         |  |

Any standards for attainment or maintenance of competence suggested as a threshold are developed by specialist medical/dental colleges, specialty societies or NSW Health organisations with expert guidance. They are not intended as an automatic barrier to practice or service delivery. Such standards should be treated as a guideline only and a trigger for review. Regardless of the threshold, acceptable results must be demonstrated, especially for procedures with significant risk. In some situations accreditation standards or NSW Health policy directives may be cited and credentials/medical appointments committees should give these due consideration.

### Extended Scope of Clinical Practice

*This will be a free text field, no list created. This section is for areas of practice outside the range of Forensic Odontology outlined above for which the practitioner may have training and experience. If the clinical work falls within the remit of a different specialty, the scope of clinical practice for that specialty may be applied.*

### Emergency Practice

**In an emergency situation, any health professional may provide any treatment immediately necessary to save the life of a patient or prevent serious injury to a patient’s health, whether or not such treatment is within their approved clinical privileges. NSW Health policy on consent in emergency situations must be followed.<sup>1</sup> The health professional should give consideration to whether there are any better means of proceeding within the time available, including considering whether a more qualified clinician is available, before providing treatment outside of approved clinical privileges in an emergency. Any emergency treatment provided should subsequently be documented.**

<sup>1</sup> Consent to Medical Treatment - Patient Information (PD2005\_406), or any replacement policy.

### Exclusions

*This will be a free text field. This section will list clinical work within the normal and customary practice of Forensic Odontology, which may not be conducted by the practitioner.*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Areas of Practice Excluded from SoCP</b>              | <i>[list here any clinical work that may not be undertaken by the practitioner, including temporary restrictions]</i> |
| <b>Time frame for review (if exclusion is temporary)</b> | <i>[specify time frame if applicable]</i>   |

### Practice Conditions, Undertakings, Reprimands, Endorsements and Notations as per the Medical/Dental Board of Australia

*[automatic feed from AHPRA public database to appear in eCredential]*

### Outcomes of Credentialing and Scope of Clinical Practice

|   |                    |                   |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Practitioner Name</b>  |                    |                   |
| <b>AHPRA Registration Number:</b>   |                    |                   |
| <b>Head of Department</b>   |                    |                   |
| <b>Scope of Clinical Practice granted for the period of (maximum five years):</b> | <b>Start Date</b>  | <b>DD/MM/YYYY</b> |
|   | <b>Finish Date</b> | <b>DD/MM/YYYY</b> |