

Model Scope of Clinical Practice – Public Health Dentistry

This document has been prepared in consultation with the State Scope of Clinical Practice Public Health Dentistry Working Group, which includes broad representation of Specialists in Public Health Dentistry.

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.

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.

Specialists in Public Health Dentistry requires a degree in dentistry and completion of an approved post graduate training program (or approval through the Qualification Assessment Pathway) to gain registration as a Specialist in Specialist in Public Health Dentistry with the Dental Board of Australia.

Please note that the Public Health Dentistry model SoCP as presented in the eCredential system may appear differently to the format shown here.

Queries regarding the Model Scope of Clinical Practice for Public Health Dentistry 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

Core Scope of Clinical Practice for the Specialty of Public Health Dentistry	Core Scope of Clinical Practice granted?
<p>Public Health Dentistry is concerned with oral health education of the public, applied dental research and administration of dental care programs including prevention and control of oral diseases on a community basis.</p> <p>Specialists in Public Health Dentistry provide leadership and management utilising the clinical knowledge, skill and judgement of a registered dental practitioner, and capable of affecting the health and safety of the community or any person. This may include administering, leading and managing an oral health service, developing policy and programs, or undertaking other roles that support the operational aspects of dentistry and the health system.</p> <p>Another focus is disease prevention and control, which is achieved through health protection and health promotion activities. A Specialist in Public Health Dentistry monitors and assesses the health needs of a population and develops, implements, and evaluates strategies for improving health and well-being through inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral partnerships.</p> <p>The core scope of clinical practice for Public Health Dentistry includes the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of oral health service delivery • Epidemiology of oral health and disease • Oral disease prevention at a population level • Analysis of oral health needs and services in community and public health settings • Designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating population oral health programs • Advocating for reduced inequalities in access to dental services and oral health outcomes • Population oral health aspects of chronic disease, mental illness and injury prevention • Population oral health aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health • Population oral health aspects of culturally diverse and marginalised groups • Health protection and risk management • Disaster management (oral health aspects) • Dental public health research and teaching • Interpretation and application of public health and other relevant legislation <p>Specialists in Public Health Dentistry may be involved in direct clinical activities such as primary dental care.</p> <p>See 'specific credentialing' for items not included within 'core'.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes with exclusions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

Qualifications Required for Core Scope of Clinical Practice		Qualifications Met?
Eligible for registration with the Dental Board of Australia as a Specialist in Public Health Dentistry.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Radiation User License IA20 <i>Use radiation apparatus for general dental radiography</i> required if the dentist is using orthopantomogram (OPG) apparatus for extra-oral dental radiography. (Registered Dentists are exempt from the requirement to hold a radiation user licence in relation to the use, for dental diagnostic purposes, of extra-oral x-ray apparatus used with intra-oral image receptors.)		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Radiation User License IA24 <i>Use cone beam computed tomography for dental radiography</i> required if operating this apparatus.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>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.</p>		
<p>Service Role Delineation</p>		
<p>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 www.health.nsw.gov.au/roledelineation</p>		
Public Health Dentistry at [location] is a level X service.	Patient Age Limitation for Public Health Dentistry at [facility]	
<p><i>Optional free-text field for LHD/SNs to add more information about a department's role delineation, if desired.</i></p>		

Clinical Duties		
Admitting	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"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Res- tricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
On-call	Participation in the appropriate specialty on-call roster and other on-call rosters as required and requested.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Consulting	May be invited for consultation on patients admitted (or being treated) by another practitioner.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Diagnostic	May sign out or authorise reports on diagnostic investigations requested by another practitioner.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Outpatients	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"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Procedural	May open an operating theatre or a day procedure unit.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Teaching	May access patients for the purpose of teaching.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Research	May participate in research projects or clinical trials.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

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 Public Health Dentistry. 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 of practice or procedures requiring specific credentialing were identified for Specialists in Public Health Dentistry</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 Public Health Dentistry 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.¹ 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.

¹ 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 Public Health Dentistry, which may not be conducted by the practitioner.

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

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