
SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR DENTAL HYGIENIST, DENTAL TECHNOLOGIST AND DENTAL TECHNICIAN - 2021



KINGDOM OF BHUTAN

**BHUTAN MEDICAL AND HEALTH COUNCIL
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN**

SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR DENTAL HYGIENIST, DENTAL TECHNOLOGIST AND DENTAL TECHNICIAN



KINGDOM OF BHUTAN

Bhutan Medical and Health Council
Royal Government of Bhutan

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Autonomous Government Agency

Tel: +975-2-331102

www.bmhc.gov.bt

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Preamble

Under the power vested in the General Body by the Chapter VI Section (i) of the Medical and Health Council Act 2002, Kingdom of Bhutan, the General Body of the Council during its 14th General Body Meeting held on 25th August 2021 approved this document.

Short Title

Scope of Practice for Dental Hygienist, Dental Technologist and Dental Technician (2021).

Commencement

This document shall come into effect from 1st January 2022.

Supersession

This document shall supersede the provisions of existing guideline, notifications and circulars that are inconsistent with this Scope of Practice.

Application

This document describes the scope of practice for

Dental Hygienists, Dental Technologists and Dental Technicians registered with the Bhutan

Medical and Health Council practicing in the health centers within the country.

Statement

This scope of practice for the Dental Hygienist, Dental Technologist and Dental Technician sets out the procedures, actions and processes that the registered Dental Hygienist, Dental Technologist and Dental Technicians are allowed to perform.

Dental Hygienists play a significant role in prevention and promotion of oral related diseases. Dental Hygienist's main job is to work with Dental

Surgeons and other specialists during the dental procedures as clinical assistants. Additionally, they participate in community oral healthcare services, surveillance and research. Dental Hygienist profession includes certificate in dental hygiene (CDH), diploma in dental hygiene (DDH) and diploma in dental therapy (DDTher).

Dental Technologist and Dental Technician professionals perform the procedures associated with design, fabrication of dental prosthetics such as dentures, oral and extra-oral appliances, maxillofacial prostheses and crowns and bridges. Dental Technologist and Dental Technician perform typically the list of following core tasks as well – trimming and pouring dental models; fabricating porcelain veneers for crowns; implanting restorations; making ceramic crowns using ceramic-metal techniques; building and finishing crowns; fabricating accurate models based on the impression and maintaining a detailed laboratory record. They play a significant role to improve quality results by studying, evaluating, re-designing processes and fabrication lab work. The Dental Technology profession includes certificates in Dental Technology, Diploma in Dental Technology and Bachelors in Dental Technology.

Competency

Registered Dental Hygienists must exhibit following competencies:

- Apply professional code of ethics in all endeavors;
- Adhere to professional conduct and practices along with established dental standard operating procedures and safety guidelines;
- Promote patient’s health and wellness using critical thinking and problem solving;
- Communicate effectively with individuals and groups from diverse populations;
- Implement quality assurance mechanisms to evaluate effectiveness of dental services;
- Collaborate with patients and other professionals to have comprehensive dental health care;
- Perform basic life support during medical emergencies;

- Complete data documentation related to patient care and treatment;
- Continuously perform self-assessment for life-long learning and professional growth;
- Implement effective human resource, material and financial management; and
- Demonstrate research skills to solve the problems through evidence gathering.

Registered Dental Technologist and Dental Technician must exhibit following competencies:

- Obtain patient information relevant to the design, manufacture and delivery of prostheses and dental appliances, and records this information logically, legibly and securely;
- Communicates effectively with concern specialist and the patient regarding shade selection, and also appropriately perform any lab procedures
- Must know the common infectious diseases and ensure infection control while undertaking any dental procedures.
- Undertakes occupational health and safety procedures to ensure compliance with relevant laws and practice standards;
- Understands and complies with the ethical responsibilities and legislative requirements for safe and competent practice;
- Carry out processes and procedures associated with the design, fabrication and repair of fixed and removable oral and extra-oral appliances;
- Analyze health practitioner’s prescription and the patient’s information- assesses information applicable to the design and fabrication of prostheses and appliances; and
- Review cases coming into the laboratory to decide how they should be progressed.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Dental Hygienist's primary role is to prevent oral related diseases and promote good oral hygiene practice. As Dental Hygienists, they have following roles and responsibilities

- Provide dental health care to a wide range of patients;
- Provide oral health education and demonstration to individual or groups;
- Plan and carryout oral health camp, screening, basic dental treatments and referrals;
- Provide oral health education, screening, prevention and evaluation in maternal and child health units (MCH);
- Application of dental sealant and fluoride;
- Perform supragingival and subgingival scaling and root planing;
- Follow infection control and waste management guidelines;
- Instrument and patient preparation; assist during procedures.
- Provide basic dental treatments, prescribe medicines and referrals;
- Perform intra oral dental X rays
- Perform basic life support during medical emergencies in dental practices;
- Proper documentation of patient's information and data recording;
- Indenting, evaluation and quality inspection; and
- Participate in oral health related research.

The detailed and specific responsibilities for Dental Hygienist are outlined in the Annexure I. Dental Technologists' and Dental Technicians' primary role is to fabricate dental and maxillo-facial prosthesis. They also provide other services as prescribed in the curriculum during their training as Dental Technologist and Dental Technician. They have the following roles and responsibilities:

- Carry out clinical examinations within their scope of practice;
- Record impressions for various dental prosthesis;

- Prescribe and deliver complete dentures to the patients;
- Replace partial loss of natural teeth by fabricating partial dentures (Acrylic or cobalt chrome);
- Restore natural teeth by fabricating crowns and bridges;
- Fabricate orthodontic appliances;
- Insert removable appliances/partial dentures;
- Fabricate mouth guards;
- Fabricate implant prostheses;
- Replace missing oro-facial structures by fabricating prostheses;
- Carry out infection control measures;
- Documentation of reports, logs, and records;
- Carry out intra-oral scanning for CAD/CAM;
- Assess quality results by studying, evaluating, and redesigning processes;
- Participate in educational opportunities, reading professional publications, maintaining personal networks to update knowledge and skill; and
- Provide education on oral hygiene with dental prostheses and participate in oral health related research.

The detailed and specific responsibilities for Dental Technologist/Dental technician are outlined in the Annexure II.

Accountability

Dental Hygienists, Dental Technologists and Dental Technicians are accountable, both legally and professionally to the patient, public, regulatory body, their employer and any relevant supervisory authority for their practice, decisions and the consequences of those decisions undertaken independently or collectively as a member of the healthcare team. They should justify their decisions in the context of legislation, professional standards and guidelines, evidence-based practice and professional and ethical conduct. They are also accountable for maintaining competency as per the changing need in advance dentistry.

Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

Dental Hygienists, Dental Technologists and Dental Technicians must keep up-to-date on the most recent advances in dental science to maintain high standards of competence in terms of knowledge, skills, and code of conduct. An effective CPD Programme ensures that the Dental Hygienists, Dental Technologists and Dental Technicians to:

- Retain core competencies to practice safely and effectively;
- Develop individually and remain updated with best practices;
- Advance in order to be able to guide and train new professionals effectively;
- Expand on individual competencies to pursue interests which may be independent or complement their current scope of practice; and
- Enhance the quality of their practice to provide better oral health care service.

Continuous professional development may be accomplished through scholarship, self-study, web-based learning, hands-on workshops and training in the special areas.

Delegation and Supervision

Delegation and supervision shall take place within the scope of practice by the authorized and registered Dental Hygienist, Dental Technologist and Dental Technicians to another licensed person to perform selected acts, tasks, or functions. The delegator must be available to provide the necessary and appropriate level of supervision required by the delegate. The Professionals who are supervising subordinates must ensure that she/he communicates continuously and effectively with those being supervised; is available on a regularly scheduled basis to review the practice of those being supervised, review records, and further educate those being supervised in the performance of their tasks. Supervision may include overseeing, directing, guiding, supporting and evaluating the personnel who are being supervised by them. When delegating a particular role or activity, they should take account of following principles;

- Ensure that the primary motivation for delegation is to serve the interests and needs of the patient;
- Assess the degree of risk involved in the delegation;
- Take into account the level of experience, competence, role and scope of practice of the person taking on the delegated task;
- Should not delegate to junior colleagues, if it is beyond his/her scope of practice or competency;
- Ensure appropriate assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the delegated role or activity;
- Communicate the details of the role or activity in a clear and understandable way;
- Decide on the level of supervision and feedback required; and
- Ensure that the practice setting supports the delegated role or activity.

Practice Setting

Dental Hygienists, Dental Technologists and Dental Technicians can practice in various authorized settings such as public or private dental clinics/healthcare centers equipped with dental facilities.

Collaborative Practice

The Dental Hygienist, Dental Technologist and Dental Technician develop and maintain professional relationships within dental professionals like Dental Surgeon and other dental specialists. They work in collaboration with relevant programs under Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Education (MoE) like oral health program, primary healthcare program, non-communicable diseases program, HIV/AIDS program, comprehensive school health program under MoH and MoE, and authorities of monastic institutions to support and implement program effectively contributing for better oral healthcare and services.

Expanded Practice

Dental Hygienists have opportunities to expand their scope of practice through relevant sub-specialization training in dental therapy, pediatric care, public health dentistry, oral radiology, clinical assistant in orthodontic, prosthodontic and oral surgery after credentials and obtaining registration from the Bhutan Medical and Health Council (BMHC). The professionals for expanded scope of practice possess special knowledge and skills to perform tasks with the advanced dentistry.

Dental Technologists and Dental Technicians have opportunities to expand their scope of practice through relevant credentials and training after obtaining registration from the Bhutan Medical and Health Council (BMHC). The professionals with expanded practice possess special knowledge and skills to perform advanced lab procedures in the dental laboratory like extensive knowledge of CAD/CAM and dental product design software and proficiency in using all types of project-related software.

1. Appendix

11.1 Annexure I - Scope of practice for Dental Hygienist

Level	Technical Role	Certificate/Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy
1	Oral health promotion and diseases prevention	
1.1	Provide oral health education and demonstration to individuals or groups in clinics, schools/institutions, communities and monasteries.	Yes
1.2	Plan and carryout oral health camps in institutions and communities, screening oral related diseases and provide basic dental treatments; and referrals.	Yes
1.3	Provide oral health education, demonstration, screening, preventive intervention and evaluation in maternal and child health unit (MCH).	Yes
2	Patient's care	
2.1	Registration, history taking, oral examination, and basic treatments like simple extractions, simple restorations, and referrals.	Yes
2.2	Application of dental sealant and fluoride to prevent and arrest dental caries.	Yes
2.3	Carryout supragingival and subgingival scaling and root surface debridement using manual and powered instruments	Yes
2.4	Instrument and patient's preparation; assist dental surgeon and specialists during dental/surgical procedures.	Yes
2.5	Perform intra oral Dental X rays	Yes

2.6	Perform basic life support during medical emergencies in dental clinics.	Yes
3	Infection Control measure	
3.1	Disinfection, washing and sterilization dental instruments and equipment.	Yes
3.2	Waste segregation and management	Yes
4	Documentation and recording	
4.1	Proper documentation of patient's information and data recording.	Yes
5	Dental Store management	
5.1	Dental store management, indent preparation and submission; evaluation and quality inspection *	Yes (* require relevant knowledge and training/ experience)
6	Data Analysis and researches	
6.1	Participate in oral health related research. *	Yes
7	Management	
7.1	Human resource management. *	Yes (* require knowledge and experience)
7.2	Check materials in stocks and equipment functional.	Yes
7.3	Engage in planning and set priorities. *	Yes (* require relevant knowledge, training and experience)

Note The scope of practice for Dental hygienists is mentioned for the certificate in dental hygiene, diploma in dental hygiene and diploma in dental therapy. This is as per the current practice and is subject to change in future as per the development in the field.*

11.2 Annexure II - Scope of Practice for Dental Technologist and Dental Technicians

Sl. No	Dental Technology Services and Competencies	Bachelor's in Dental Technology	Diploma/certificate in Dental Technology
1. Clinical Roles			
1.1	Record Impression and Primary Impression	Yes	Yes
1.2	Assist orthodontist/prosthodontist during impression	Yes	Yes
1.3	Border molding and Secondary Impression	Yes	Yes
1.4	Try in of Denture	Yes	Yes
1.5	Denture insertion and follow-up	Yes	Yes
1.6	Direct Relining	Yes	Yes
2. Laboratory Roles			
2.1	Receive patient, Review, prescription and Record patient details	Yes	Yes
2.2	Fabrication of Acrylic Partial Denture.	Yes	Yes
2.3	Fabrication of Complete Denture	Yes	Yes
2.4	Fabrication of cast partial Dentures	Yes	Yes
2.5	Fabrication of orthodontic appliances	Yes	Yes (*Hands on and Attachments Required)
2.6	Fabrication of obturators	Yes	Yes

2.7	Fabrication of splints and night Guards	Yes	Yes
2.8	Fabrication of Nasoalveolar molding	Yes	Yes (*Hands on and Attachments Required)
2.9	Fabrication of space maintainers	Yes	Yes (*Hands on and Attachments Required)
2.10	Fabrication of functional appliances	Yes	Yes (Hands on and Attachments Required)
2.11	Fabrication of study models	Yes	Yes
2.12	Indirect-relining of dentures	Yes	Yes
2.13	Rebasing of Dentures	Yes	Yes
2.14	Fabrication of full metal crowns	Yes	Yes (*Hands on and Attachments Required)
2.15	Fabrication of porcelain fused to metal crowns	Yes	Yes (*Hands on and Attachments Required)
2.16	Fabrication of all ceramic crowns	Yes	Yes (*Hands on and Attachments Required)
2.17	Fabrication of porcelain fused to metal Bridges.	Yes	Yes (*Hands on and Attachments Required)
2.18	Fabrication of all Ceramic Bridges	Yes	Yes (*Hands on and Attachments Required)
2.19	Fabrication of inlay and on lays.	Yes	Yes (*Hands on and Attachments Required)
2.20	Fabrication of porcelain veneers and jacket crowns/ Maryland bridges	Yes	Yes (*Hands on and Attachments Required)

2.21	Fabrication of provisional crowns and bridges	Yes	Yes
2.22	Fabrication of Post and Core	Yes	Yes
2.23	Fabrication of maxillo-facial appliances.	Yes	Yes (*additional short-term training required)
3. Infection Control Measures			
3.1	Disinfection, washing and sterilization dental instruments and equipment.	Yes	Yes
3.2	Waste segregation and management	Yes	Yes
4. Dental Store management			
4.1	Dental store management, indent preparation and submission; evaluation and quality inspection *	Yes (* require relevant knowledge and training/ experience)	Yes (* require relevant knowledge and training /experience)
5. Data Analysis and researches			
5.1	Participate in oral health related research. *	Yes (* require relevant knowledge, training and experience)	Yes (* require relevant knowledge, training and experience)
6. Management			
6.1	Human resource management.	Yes (* require relevant knowledge and experience)	Yes (* require relevant knowledge and experience)
6.2	Sufficient materials and equipment functional.	Yes	Yes

6.3	Engage in planning and set priorities. *	Yes (* require relevant knowledge, training and experience)	Yes (* require relevant knowledge, training and experience)
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Definitions

- a. **Accountability:** It means being answerable for the decisions made in the course of one's professional practice.
- b. **Competence:** A distinct composite of knowledge, skill, attitude and value that is essential to the practice of the profession.
- c. **Continuous professional development:** Lifelong learning process to augment the knowledge, skills and attitude for enhancement of practice, education, leadership and research in an ever-changing healthcare environment.
- d. **Collaborative practice:** It is the professional relationship between different healthcare professionals which involve respectful, effective communication and appropriate documentation which are essential elements in providing safe, quality health care to patients and in identifying and managing risks.
- e. **Delegation:** It is the transfer of responsibility for the performance of a task to another licensed professional while retaining the accountability for the outcome.
- f. **Dental Hygienist:** Refers to dental professionals with qualification of either certificate in Dental Hygiene or Diploma in Dental Hygiene.
- g. **Dental Technologist:** Refers to those dental professionals with Bachelor's Degree in Dental Technology.
- h. **Dental Technician:** Refers to those dental professionals with qualification with either Certificate in Dental Technology or Diploma in Dental Technology.

- i. **Practice setting:** The practice setting refers to the place in which the health professionals work and the nature of the working environment.
- j. **Expanded practice:** Change in the role of an individual Dental Hygienist to include areas of practice that have not previously been within their scope of practice but are within the overall scope of practice of the Dental Hygienists.
- k. **Roles and Responsibilities:** The obligation to perform duties, tasks or roles using sound professional judgement and being answerable for the decisions made in doing this.
- l. **Supervision:** It is overseeing, directing, guiding, supporting and evaluating trainees by the senior employee/ supervisor.
- m. **Scope of Practice:** The range of roles, functions, responsibilities and activities which a registered health professional is educated, competent and has authority to perform.

Abbreviations

1. DH: Dental Hygienist
2. CDH: Certificate in Dental Hygiene
3. DDH: Diploma in Dental Hygiene
4. DDTher: Diploma in Dental Therapy
5. IOPA: Intraoral Periapical
6. OPG: Orthopantomogram
7. MoH: Ministry of Health
8. MoE: Ministry of Education
9. HIV/AIDS: Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome.
10. CPD: Continuous Professional Development
11. BMHC: Bhutan Medical and Health Council
12. T/C: Temporary crown
13. PFM: Procelain Fused to Metal
14. CPD: Continuous Professional Development
15. CD: Complete Denture
16. CAD/CAM: Computer-Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacturing

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