

Credentialing and Scope of Clinical Practice

Dentists, Dental Therapists and Oral Health Therapists - Framework

As per the Health Service Directive (QH-HSD-034: 2014) Credentialing and defining the scope of clinical practice, it a mandatory requirement for an HHS to ensure the following:

- All dental practitioners within the registered divisions of dentist and dental specialist are credentialed and have a current documented scope of clinical practice (SoCP) covering all work performed.
- Dental therapists and oral health therapists undertaking specific procedures or practices that require specific training or qualifications are credentialed and have a current documented SoCP.

Oral Health Therapists

Mandatory requirements are by exception which relate to specific practices and procedures to support them to work independently. Those procedures are:

- Adult extractions
- Orthodontics

Dental Therapists

Mandatory requirements are by exception which relate to specific practices and procedures to support them to work independently. Those procedures are:

- Adult extractions
- Orthodontics
- Adult restorations
- Treatments practiced by qualified Hygienist

General Dental Practice – treatment under general anaesthetic (in a hospital operating theatre)

Dentists applying for SoCP including treatment under general anaesthetic must provide evidence for procedures performed. The number and range of procedures carried out is more relevant than the number of cases seen. For new applicants for this SoCP, there should be a minimum of three sessions evidenced and these sessions are to ascertain competency to manage a GA session unsupervised within the expected full scope of general dentistry. Each case will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and a flexible approach should be taken for dentists with previous experience in GA.

The following evidence is preferred to support applications for general anaesthetic SoCP:

- Day lists for the GA sessions (these can be downloaded from ORMIS)

- Item list extracted from QHERS (5.08) showing the procedures carried out for each patient at each session

Supervised applicants applying for their initial general anaesthetic SoCP should also provide:

- A supervisor reference commenting on recent competence in general anaesthesia
- Identify which items on the day lists (if any) were not carried out by the supervisee
- Endorse the day list as correct by naming the supervisee, sign and date.