



GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

N\$5.60

WINDHOEK - 9 March 2026

No. 8861

CONTENTS

Page

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

No. 60	Regulations relating to minimum requirements and registration of oral hygienists, additional qualifications, maintaining of register and restoration of names to register and scope of practice of oral hygienists: Health Professions Act, 2024	1
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Government Notice

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

No. 60

2026

REGULATIONS RELATING TO MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS AND REGISTRATION OF ORAL HYGIENISTS, ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS, MAINTAINING OF REGISTER AND RESTORATION OF NAMES TO REGISTER AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF ORAL HYGIENISTS: HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 2024

Under section 91(1) of the Health Professions Act, 2024 (Act No. 16 of 2004), and on the recommendation of the Health Professions Council of Namibia, I have –

- (a) made the regulations set out in the Schedule; and
- (b) repealed the –
 - (i) Regulations Relating to Minimum Requirements of Study for Registration as Oral Hygienist published under Government Notice No. 144 of 18 June 2008;
 - (ii) Regulations Relating to Registration of Oral Hygienists, Maintaining of Registers of Oral Hygienists and Restoration of Name to Register published under Government Notice No. 145 of 18 June 2008;

- (iii) Regulations Relating to Scope of Practice of Oral Hygiene published under Government Notice No. 197 of 18 August 2008; and
- (iv) Amendment of Regulations Relating to Scope of Practice of Oral Hygiene published under Government Notice No. 210 of 16 September 2015.

DR. ESPERANCE LUVINDAO
MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Windhoek, 9 February 2026

SCHEDULE

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

1. Definitions
 2. Minimum qualifications for registration as oral hygienist
 3. Minimum qualifications for registration as oral hygienist to practice independently
 4. Application for registration as oral hygienist
 5. Registrable additional qualifications
 6. Scope of practice of oral hygienist
 7. Register of oral hygienist
 8. Restoration of name to register
 9. Language of forms and documents
- Annexure: Additional Qualifications

Definitions

1. In these regulations a word or an expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act has that meaning, and unless the context indicates otherwise –

“dentist” means a person registered as a dentist under section 34 of the Act;

“dental specialist” means a person registered as a dentist specialist under section 38 of the Act;

“equivalent qualification” means a qualification obtained after full-time education of similar course and comprising of similar subjects as specified in regulation 2(2) and 3(2);

“oral hygienist” means a person registered as an oral hygienist under section 34(5) of the Act; and

“the Act” means the Health Professions Act, 2024 (Act No. 16 of 2024).

Minimum qualifications for registration as oral hygienist

2. (1) Subject to other requirements in the Act, the Council may register a person as oral hygienist if the person holds any of the following qualification:

- (a) Diploma in Oral Hygiene; or
- (b) an equivalent qualification,

obtained from an educational institution after the person has successfully completed full-time study for a period of not less than two years.

(2) The curriculum of the qualification referred to in subregulation (1) must include the following subjects –

- (a) clinical practice;
- (b) oral diseases and prevention;
- (c) introduction to clinical practice;
- (d) academic literacy for oral health;
- (e) applied dental practice;
- (f) oral health promotion;
- (g) health, development and primary health care;
- (h) interdisciplinary health promotion;
- (i) radiography;
- (j) local anaesthesia and oral surgery;
- (k) special patient care;
- (l) measurement of health and disease;
- (m) community oral health;
- (n) ethics and practice management;
- (o) health systems; and
- (p) applied research.

(3) Despite regulation 3, an oral hygienist with a qualification referred to in subregulation (1) may practice independently if the oral hygienist has submitted documentary proof to the satisfaction of the Council that he or she has –

- (a) subject to subregulation (4), served for a continuous period of at least five years under the direct control and supervision of a dentist or dental specialist in Namibia;
- (b) obtained a further qualification from an educational institution with an expanded curriculum in oral hygiene in referred to in with regulation 3(2); and
- (c) completed training in First Aid within the last 24 months of submitting documentary proof to the Council.

(4) An oral hygienist referred to in subregulation (3) who has served under the direct control and supervision of a dental specialist must have served not less than six months within the last year of the five-year period referred to in subregulation (3)(a) under the direct control and supervision of a dentist.

Minimum qualifications for registration as oral hygienist to practice independently

3. (1) Subject to other requirements in the Act, the Council may register a person as oral hygienist to practice independently if the person holds any of the following qualifications –

- (a) Bachelor Degree in Oral Health;
- (b) Baccalaureus Sanitatis Oris; or
- (c) an equivalent qualification,

obtained from an educational institution after the person has successfully completed full-time study at an educational institution for a period of not less than three years.

(2) The curriculum of the qualification referred to in subregulation (1) must include the following subjects –

- (a) clinical practice;
- (b) oral diseases;
- (c) human biology for oral health;
- (d) oral biology for oral health;
- (e) oral health promotion;
- (f) periodontology for oral health;
- (g) measuring health and disease;
- (h) pharmacology for oral health;
- (i) oral diseases and prevention;
- (j) health systems;
- (k) radiological diagnosis for oral health;
- (l) social sciences for oral health promotion;
- (m) health, development and primary health care;
- (n) interdisciplinary health promotion;
- (o) radiography;
- (p) local anaesthesia and oral surgery;
- (q) clinical oral health;
- (r) special care for oral health;
- (s) ethics and practice management; and
- (t) applied research.

Application for registration as oral hygienist

4. (1) A person who holds a qualification referred to –
 - (a) in regulation 2(1) may in terms of section 33 of the Act, apply to be registered as an oral hygienist; or
 - (b) regulation 3(1) may, in terms of section 33 of the Act, apply to be registered as an oral hygienist to practice independently.
- (2) The application must in addition to the documents referred to in section 33, be –
 - (a) made on form 3 set out in the Annexure to the Regulations prescribing application forms, certificates and licences published under Government Notice No. 26 of 23 February 2026 submitted to the Registrar; and
 - (b) accompanied by a certified copy of the identity document or passport of the person.
- (3) The Council may require the applicant to furnish proof, in the manner that the Council may determine, of the proficiency of the applicant in the English language.

Registrable additional qualifications

5. (1) Subject to section 38 of the Act, the qualification referred to in the Annexure may be registered as additional qualifications for an oral hygienist.

(2) Despite subregulation (1), the Council may recognise other additional qualification not listed in the Annexure and that qualification must be entered against the name of an oral hygienist as an additional qualification, if that additional qualification complies with section 38 of the Act.

Scope of practice of oral hygiene

6. (1) The following acts are falling within the scope of practice of an oral hygienist referred to in regulations 3(1), 2(3) and 2(1), except that the oral hygienist referred to in regulation 2(1) must be under the direct supervision of a dentist or dental specialist –

- (a) recording of dental history, examining of patients and charting of patients' oral and dental status;
- (b) assessing patients by means of measuring vital signs, and conducting an oral clinical examination;
- (c) performing of analogue, digital radiography and the taking of clinical photographs;
- (d) oral hygiene diagnoses and developing of an appropriate treatment plan relating to the scope of oral hygiene;
- (e) advising and educating patients on oral self-care including, but not limited to, mechanical and chemotherapeutic plaque control and tobacco cessation;
- (f) advising patient about nutrition and diet, fluorides and anti-microbial agents, excluding antibiotics, in relation to oral disease prevention;
- (g) applying of topical agents such as ascaries-preventive agents, remineralising agents, tooth-desensitising agents, surface anaesthetics and plaque-controlling agents;

- (h) applying of pit and fissure sealants and minimally invasive procedures such as a traumatic restorative techniques (ART) and sealant restorations and the placement and removal of rubber dam and matrix bands;
- (i) performing of debridement, scaling, root-planning, the cleaning of dental implants and the polishing of teeth;
- (j) treating of dentine hypersensitivity and cervical abrasion lesions;
- (k) polishing and recontouring of overhanging restorations;
- (l) applying of topical and local anaesthesia;
- (n) assisting oral health care professionals in the performance of basic and advanced clinical procedures;
- (o) applying of vital tooth whitening techniques and procedures;
- (p) making of a study cast or digital impressions (intraoral scans) to produce vacuum formed mouth guards, night guards and whitening trays;
- (q) placing of temporary fillings as an emergency measure; and
- (r) taking of impressions.

(2) An oral hygienist referred to in regulations 2(1), 2(3) and 3(1) must perform the following acts pertaining to the scope of practice of oral hygiene under the direct supervision of a dentist or dental specialist –

- (a) taking of cytological smears;
- (b) splinting of mobile teeth;
- (c) applying and removing of periodontal packs;
- (d) performing of cephalometric tracings;
- (e) relieving of trauma caused by intra- and extra-oral appliances, such as the cutting of distal ends of arch wires;
- (f) placing and removal of pre-activated orthodontic appliances, attachments and bands;
- (g) placing and removal of elastics and ligature wires; and
- (h) placement and activation of arch wires.

(3) The following acts pertaining to the scope of practice of oral hygiene must be performed, by an oral hygienist referred to in regulations 2(3) and (3)(1) in consultation with a dentist or dental specialist and by an oral hygienist referred to in regulation 2(1) under direct supervision of a dentist or dental specialist –

- (a) removing surgical sutures, take castings and trimmings of study and primary work models and cement space maintainers;

- (b) performing of temporary cementing inlays, crowns and bridges;
- (c) placing of soft linings in dentures as tissue conditioners;
- (d) re-cementing of orthodontic retainers; and
- (e) producing vacuum formed retainers.

Register of oral hygienists

7. The register of oral hygienist established and kept in terms of section 46 of the Act must, in addition to the particulars specified by subsection (3) of that section, contain –

- (a) Any particulars that Council may determine; and
- (b) any change in the particulars recorded in the register.

Restoration of name to register

8. An application in terms of section 50(1) of the Act for the restoration of the name of an oral hygienist to a register must, in addition to the documents and particulars specified under subsection (4) of that section, be accompanied by –

- (a) a certified copy of the identity document or passport of the applicant; and
- (b) a certified copy of the registration certificate.

Language of forms and documents

9. (1) Subject to subregulation (2), any document required to be submitted to the Council or the registrar in terms of these regulations must be in the English language.

(2) Any document that is not in the English language must be accompanied by a sworn translation of such document in the English language.

ANNEXURE

Additional qualifications (Regulation 5)

Diploma in Health Service Management DHSM Witwatersrand

Magister Scientiae Dentium (MSc. Dentium)
