



Republic of Namibia
Annotated Statutes

REGULATIONS

REGULATIONS SURVIVING IN TERMS OF

Health Professions Act 16 of 2024
section 95(10)

**Regulations relating to Minimum Requirements of Study
for Registration, Registration of and Scope of Practice
for Dental Therapists**

Government Notice 138 of 2014

(GG 5550)

came into force on date of publication: 5 September 2014

These regulations were made in terms of section 55 of the Allied Health Professions Act 7 of 2004, which was repealed by the Health Professions Act 16 of 2024. Pursuant to section 95(10) of the Health Professions Act 16 of 2024, they are deemed to have been made under that Act.

The Government Notice which publishes these regulations notes that they were made on the recommendation of the Allied Health Professions Council of Namibia.

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PART 1
PRELIMINARY

Definitions

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

“additional qualification” means an additional qualification referred to in section 32(1)(a) of the Act;

“applicant” means any person making an application in accordance with these regulations;

“certified” means certified as a true copy of the original by a commissioner of oaths appointed under section 5, or designated under section 6, of the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of Oaths Act, 1963 (Act No. 16 of 1963);

“dentist” means a dentist as defined in section 1 of the Medical and Dental Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004);

**[The Medical and Dental Act 10 of 2004
has been replaced by the Health Professions Act 16 of 2024.]**

“medical practitioner” means a medical practitioner as defined in section 1 of the Medical and Dental Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004);

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“patient” means a person treated by a dental therapist at the request of that person, his or her legal guardian or any other person who provides care to the person;

“registration authority” means the registration authority of a country responsible for the registration of a person to practise as a dental therapist in that country; and

“the Act” means the Allied Health Professions Act, 2004 (Act No. 7 of 2004).

[The Allied Health Professions Act 7 of 2004
has been replaced by the Health Professions Act 16 of 2024.]

PART 2
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF STUDY
FOR REGISTRATION AS DENTAL THERAPIST

Minimum qualifications for registration as dental therapist

2. (1) Subject to compliance with the other requirements required by or under the Act, the Council may register a person as a dental therapist if the person holds any of the qualifications in dental therapy specified in Annexure 1 after receiving full time education, tuition and training in dental therapy for a minimum period of three years.

(2) The Council may register a person who is not a holder of a qualification referred to in subregulation (1) as a dental therapist, if that person -

- (a) complies with other requirements required by or under the Act for the person to be registered as a dental therapist;
- (b) holds a diploma or bachelors degree in dental therapy obtained from an educational institution that complies with the requirement of regulation 3; and
- (c) has received full time education, tuition and training in dental therapy at the educational institution for a minimum period of three years.

(3) A diploma or bachelors degree referred to in subregulation (2) must include education, tuition and training in the subjects of -

- (a) psychosocial orientation for health care;
- (b) introduction to anatomy and neuroanatomy;
- (c) general basic psychology;
- (d) oral biology structures;
- (e) anatomy of the head and neck;
- (f) oral biology (embryology and physiology);
- (g) morphology, histology and cardiology;

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- (h) cardiology, periodontology and prevention of common diseases (pre-clinical practice);
- (i) radiography and photography (pre-clinical practice and clinical);
- (j) community oral health (primary health care, epidemiology and health promotion);
- (k) general pathology and microbiology;
- (l) diagnostics, infection control and specialities in dental therapy;
- (m) general medicine and patient care;
- (n) oral medicine, oral pathology, clinical pharmacology and pharmacokinetics;
- (o) community oral health (elective field practice);
- (p) minor oral surgery;
- (q) restorative dentistry and dental materials (pre-clinical and clinical);
- (r) medical emergencies and clinical pharmacology;
- (s) local anaesthesia;
- (t) prosthetics and orthodontics;
- (u) pedodontics;
- (v) nutrition; and
- (w) childhood diseases, to the satisfaction of the Council.

Recognition of qualification by Council

3. For the purpose of the registering a person as a dental therapist, the Council may recognise a diploma or bachelors degree referred to in regulation 2(2)(b), if the -

- (a) educational institution at which the person obtained the diploma or bachelors degree is approved by the Council;
- (b) registration authority responsible for the registration of the person to practise as a dental therapist in the country in which the person obtained the diploma or bachelors degree, recognises the diploma or bachelors degree for the registration to practise as a dental therapist in that country; and
- (c) person complies with the other requirements for registration as a dental therapist required by or under the Act.

PART 3
REGISTRATION OF DENTAL THERAPISTS AND
ADDITIONAL EDUCATION, TUITION AND TRAINING

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Application for registration as dental therapist

4. (1) An application for the registration of a person as a dental therapist in terms of section 20 of the Act must, in addition to the documents and particulars specified in subsection (2) of that section, be accompanied by -

- (a) a certified copy of the identity document or passport of the applicant; and
- (b) an original certificate of registration to practise as a dental therapist issued by the registration authority of a country in which the applicant has obtained the qualification which entitles him or her to registration.

(2) If the applicant is not registered with the registering authority referred to in subregulation (1)(b), the applicant must, together with his or her application for registration as a dental therapist, submit -

- (a) a certificate issued by that registration authority certifying that the qualification which the applicant holds entitles him or her to be registered as a dental therapist in that country; or
- (b) a certificate issued by that registration authority confirming that the applicant has been registered in that country and his or her name has been removed from the register of the registering authority and specifying the grounds for the removal.

(3) If the applicant is registered in any country other than the country referred to in subregulation (1)(b), the application for registration as a dental therapist must be accompanied by the -

- (a) original certificate of registration to practice as a dental therapist issued by the registration authority of the country where the applicant lastly practiced as a dental therapist; and
- (b) original qualification referred to in subregulation (1)(b).

(4) The Council may require the applicant to furnish proof of proficiency in the English language in a manner determined by the Council.

Additional education, tuition and training

5. (1) The Council must determine, when registering a person conditionally as a dental therapist under section 22(2)(a) of the Act, the additional education, tuition or training, that the person so conditionally registered must undertake in order for him or her to qualify for registration as a dental therapist.

(2) Particulars of the additional education, tuition or training referred to in subregulation (1) must be endorsed by the Council on the certificate of conditional registration issued by the Council under section 22(2)(b) of the Act.

Additional qualifications

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6. (1) For the purposes of section 32(1)(a) of the Act, the qualifications specified in Annexure 2 may be registered as additional qualifications by a person registered as a dental therapist.

(2) An application to have an additional qualification registered under subsection (2) of section 32 of the Act must, in addition to the documents and particulars specified in subsection (3) of that section, be accompanied by a certified copy of the identification document or passport of the applicant.

PART 4
REGISTER AND RESTORATION OF NAME TO REGISTER

Register of dental therapists

7. The register of dental therapists established and kept in accordance with subsection (2) of section 24 of the Act, must contain, in addition to the particulars specified by subsection (3) of that section, any change in any of the particulars recorded in the register.

Restoration of name to register

8. (1) An application for the restoration of a name of a dental therapist to a register must be accompanied, in addition to the documents and information specified by section 26(2) of the Act, by -

- (a) the original registration certificate issued under section 21(4)(b) of the Act or if for any reason the original certificate cannot be submitted the applicant must submit proof to the satisfaction of the Council that he or she has been registered; and
- (b) a certified copy of the identity document or passport of the applicant.

PART 5
SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF DENTAL THERAPISTS

Scope of practice of dental therapists

9. For the purposes of section 34(2) of the Act, the acts that fall within the scope of practice of a dental therapist are as follows -

- (a) comprehensive examination of the teeth, gums or jaws of a patient, including the interpretation of x-rays taken in respect of the teeth, gums or jaws and the charting of the oral health status and keeping of dental records of the patient;
- (b) scaling and polishing of teeth and removal of stains from the teeth to prevent gingivitis and periodontal diseases;
- (c) application of fissure sealants to susceptible teeth;
- (d) application of fluoride in its various forms and de-sensitisers to sensitive teeth;
- (e) sub-gingival scaling and root planning;
- (f) administration of local anaesthetics;

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- (g) restoration of teeth with plastic restorative material, including amalgams, composites or other similar remedies;
- (h) emergency treatment of an exposed pulp;
- (i) prescribing of analgesics, anti-inflammatory medicines and antibiotics up to and including Schedule 4 substances as defined in the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, 2003 (Act No. 13 of 2003);
- (j) identification of minor traumatic intra-oral injuries, lacerations and abrasions and the suturing thereof, if necessary;
- (k) incision and draining of intra-oral dental abscesses;
- (l) detecting, diagnosing and treatment of infected sockets and alveoli after extraction and post-extraction bleeding;
- (m) conducting of oral hygiene counselling and preventative oral care for a high risk patient;
- (n) recognition and treatment of hard and soft tissue oral pathology and the referral of the patient to a suitably qualified dentist or medical practitioner, if necessary;
- (o) the application of tooth jewellery but does not include the preparation of the tooth structure or the taking of impressions;
- (p) the identification of dental clinical problems caused by the wearing of orthodontic or prosthetic appliances or by inter-maxillary fixation and the referral of the patient to a suitably qualified dentist or medical practitioner, if necessary;
- (q) removal of sutures and inter-maxillary fixation on request by the attending dentist or medical practitioner; and
- (r) referral of patients to the next level of dental, medical, psychological or social care, if so warranted.

PART 6
GENERAL

Language of forms and documents

10. (1) Any form or document to be submitted to the Council or to the registrar under these regulations must, subject to subregulation (2), be in the English language.

(2) Any form or document referred to in subregulation (1) that is not in the English language must be accompanied by a sworn translation of that form or document into the English language acceptable to the Council.

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ANNEXURE 1
(Regulation 2(1))

Qualification	Educational institution	Country
Bachelors Degree in Dental Therapy	University of Limpopo (formerly known as the Medical University of South Africa)	Republic of South Africa
Diploma in Dental Therapy	University of Limpopo (formerly known as the Medical University of South Africa)	Republic of South Africa
Bachelors Degree in Dental Therapy	University of KwaZulu-Natal (formerly known as the University of Durban-Westville)	Republic of South Africa
Diploma in Dental Therapy	University of Western cape	Republic of South Africa
Bachelors Degree in Dental Therapy	University of Witwatersrand	Republic of South Africa
Diploma in Dental Therapy	University of Botswana	Republic of Botswana
Diploma in Dental Sciences	University of Zambia	Republic of Zambia
Diploma in Dental Therapy	School of Dental Therapy and Technology	Republic of Zimbabwe
Diploma in Dental Therapy	University of Malawi	Republic of Malawi

ANNEXURE 2
(Regulation 6(1))

Qualification	Educational Institution	Country
Honours Degree in Dental Therapy	University of Limpopo (formerly the Medical University of South Africa)	Republic of South Africa
Advanced Diploma in Community Dentistry	University of Limpopo (formerly the Medical University of South Africa)	Republic of South Africa
Master of Public Health	University of California	United States of America
Diploma in Community Dental Health	University College, London	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Doctor of Philosophy in Community Dentistry	University College, London	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Certificate in Clinical Pharmacology	University of Namibia	Republic of Namibia
Masters Degree in Public Health	University of Namibia	Republic of Namibia
Masters Degree in Dental Therapy	University of Minnesota	United States of America
Masters Degree in Health Service Management	Uganda Martyrs University	Republic of Uganda
Doctorate in Health Service Management	Uganda Martyrs University	Republic of Uganda