



# GDC Consultation

## Scope of Practice Consultation:

### Response document

This document contains all the questions from the consultation paper. The boxes can be expanded should you need further room for your answers.

The deadline for response is **5.00pm on Friday 9 May 2008**

Please reply to:

Stephanie Lenn  
Scope of Practice Consultation  
General Dental Council  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 44 Baker Street  
London W1U 7BE

You can also reply by email to: [ScopeofPractice@gdc-uk.org](mailto:ScopeofPractice@gdc-uk.org)

## Practice of dentistry

1. Do you think the definition of the practice of dentistry should be amended to cover advice and treatment given by all GDC registrants (rather than just dentists) to protect the public from unregistered staff by protecting the functions of dental nurses and technicians in law as well as their titles?

Yes

## Who are you?

2. To help us to understand the context of your response, please indicate the perspective from which you are replying.

*(please tick the box which applies to you below)*

### Dental Professional:

Dental Practitioner  Yes

### Organisations

On behalf of an organisation  Yes - Council of Heads and Deans of Dental Schools

## Dental nurses

3. Is there anything that should be added to a dental nurse's scope of practice?

Yes

4. Please identify anything that you would add to or remove from the proposed additional skills for dental nurses and give reasons.

Skills that should be added  
- Record dental charting – change from “carry out”  
- Impressions for diagnoses – change from “for any purpose”  
- Placement of rubber dams where the use of sharp instrumentation may result in the skill being an exposure prone procedure

Skills that should be removed....  
Use of rotary instruments

## Orthodontic therapists

5. Is there anything that should be added to an orthodontic therapist's scope of practice?

No

6. Please identify anything that you would add to or remove from the proposed additional skills for orthodontic therapist and give reasons.
Skills that should be added..... None
Skills that should be removed.... None

**Dental hygienists**

7. Is there anything that should be added to dental hygienist's scope of practice?
No

8. Please identify anything that you would add to or remove from the proposed additional skills for dental hygienists and give reasons.
Skills that should be added..... None
Skills that should be removed.... None

**Dental therapists**

9. Is there anything that should be added to a dental therapist's scope of practice?
No

10. Please identify anything that you would add to or remove from the proposed additional skills for dental therapists and give reasons.
Skills that should be added..... "Periodontal surgery" and "prescribing dental radiographs" need to be qualified to limit the skills to those relevant to dental therapists
Skills that should be removed.... None

**Dental technicians**

11. Is there anything that should be added to a dental technician's scope of practice?

No

12. Please identify anything that you would add to or remove from the proposed additional skills for dental technicians and give reasons.

Skills that should be added.....

None

Skills that should be removed....

None

### **Clinical dental technicians**

13. Is there anything that should be added to a clinical dental technicians scope of practice?

No

14. Please identify anything that you would add to the proposed additional skills for clinical dental technicians and give reasons.

Skills that should be added.....

None

### **Dentists**

15. Please identify anything that you would add to the proposed additional skills for dentists and give reasons.

Skills that should be added

Implant placement and restoration.

Additional skills may be acquired as part of post qualification training such as for Orthodontics, Sedation and Periodontics.

### **General questions**

16. Having read the preface and the draft guidance on scope of practice, do you agree with the approach we have taken – of registrants using their skills within clear parameters?

Yes with the proviso that training for additional skills needs to be "recognised"

17. Do you think that issuing new standards guidance is the best way to take this forward?

Yes

## Tooth whitening

18. Should any Dental Care Professional (DCP) group be able to carry out tooth whitening using bleaching agents, on prescription from or under the supervision of a dentist?			
	Yes on prescription	Yes under supervision	No
Dental nurses	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Orthodontic therapists	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Dental hygienists	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Dental therapists	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Dental technicians			<input type="checkbox"/>
Clinical dental technicians			<input type="checkbox"/>

## Direct access

19. In 2006, the Council decided that the only group of dental care professionals who could see patients who had not seen a dentist first were clinical dental technicians. They are allowed to see patients who have no teeth to provide them with full dentures. There is no plan to review that decision in the next 12 months. However, a new Council will take over in 2009 and we would like to help them decide what skills would be needed if training to allow other groups to see patients directly was to be proposed. What skills do you think would be needed to make direct access to DCPs safe and effective for patients?
As for Therapists

## Other treatments

20. What should the GDC be saying to registrants about the following activities as legitimate additions to conventional dentistry?	
Dermal fillers such as collagen used in the face?	No
Dermal fillers such as collagen used in other parts of the body?	No
Botox when used in the face?	No
Botox when used in other parts of the body?	No

Bone harvesting other than from the mouth? trained and that the training is “recognised”.	Yes if appropriately
--	----------------------

21. What should the GDC be saying to registrants about complementary therapies and/or treatments (for example, acupuncture and hypnotherapy) which they provide but which are not linked to a patient’s dental treatment?
These therapies should only be used alongside the delivery of dental treatment

22. Do you have any other comments on this part of the consultation? If they relate to a particular question, please state which one.
No

**Dental nurses ‘in training’**

23. Do you agree with the policies regarding dental nurses in training?
Yes

**Dental technicians ‘in training’**

24. Do you agree with the policies regarding dental technicians in training?
Yes

**Registered general nurses working in maxillofacial, oral surgery or orthodontic clinics in hospitals**

25. Do you agree with the policies regarding registered general nurses working in maxillofacial, oral surgery or orthodontic clinics in hospitals?
Yes

**Registrant using unregistered staff or another person to assist in the absence of a dental nurse**

26. Do you agree with the policy regarding unregistered staff and others assisting in the absence of a dental nurse?

Yes

**Registered healthcare professionals (non-GDC) working in the mouth**

27. Do you agree with the policy regarding non-GDC registered healthcare professionals working in the mouth?

Yes

**Student dental professionals acting as dental nurses**

28. Do you agree with the statement regarding student dental professionals providing dental nursing in a practice?

Yes

**Registrants sending work to overseas laboratories**

29. Do you agree with the statement regarding the responsibilities of registrants who choose to send work to overseas laboratories?

Yes

**Full mouth assessments and treatment plans**

30. Do you agree with the statement regarding full mouth assessments and treatment plans?

Yes

**Legal obligations**

31. Is there anything that should be added to the list regarding legal obligations?

No

**Other comments**

32. Do you have any other comments on this part of the consultation? If they relate to a particular question, please state which one.

With regards Q20, Botox should not be within the Scope of Practice of conventional dentistry. The CHDDS questions how the regulation of such treatments would be performed. If those delivering procedures such as botox are registered with the GMC, it is likely that some of those on any such register would be dentists.