
GOVERNMENT NOTICE

SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

No. 1177

11 December 2009



SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SAQA)

In accordance with Regulation 24(c) of the National Standards Bodies Regulations of 28 March 1998, the Task Team for

Dental Therapy and Oral Hygiene

registered by Organising Field 09 – Health Sciences and Social Services, publishes the following Qualification for public comment.

This notice contains the titles, fields, sub-fields, NQF levels, credits, and purpose of the Qualification. The full Qualification can be accessed via the SAQA web-site at www.saqqa.org.za. Copies may also be obtained from the Directorate of Standards Setting and Development at the SAQA offices, SAQA House, 1067 Arcadia Street, Hatfield, Pretoria.

Comment on the Qualification should reach SAQA at the address below and ***no later than 29 January 2010***. All correspondence should be marked **Standards Setting – Task Team for Dental Therapy and Oral Hygiene** and addressed to

The Director: Standards Setting and Development
SAQA

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D. MPHUTHING

ACTING DIRECTOR: STANDARDS SETTING AND DEVELOPMENT



SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

QUALIFICATION:
Bachelor: Oral Hygiene

SAQA QUAL ID	QUALIFICATION TITLE		
74450	Bachelor: Oral Hygiene		
ORIGINATOR		PROVIDER	
TT - Dental Therapy and Oral Hygiene			
QUALIFICATION TYPE	FIELD	SUBFIELD	
National Diploma	9 - Health Sciences and Social Services	Promotive Health and Developmental Services	
ABET BAND	MINIMUM CREDITS	NQF LEVEL	QUAL CLASS
Undefined	360	Level 6	Regular-ELOAC

New NQF Level: NQF Level 07

This qualification does not replace any other qualification and is not replaced by another qualification.

PURPOSE AND RATIONALE OF THE QUALIFICATION

Purpose:

This Qualification will provide learners with the necessary knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to be able to promote the oral health status and general well-being of the individual, family and community systems in which they function. The care provided will be cognisant of the South African context of diverse individual and broader public health needs. The focus will be on the provision of preventive, promotive, interceptive and therapeutic care at a primary health level that is in line with national and international best oral health practice. The oral hygienist will participate in and promote a multi-disciplinary and inter-professional approach to improve oral health, thereby promoting good general health.

Although the sub-field indicated is that of promotive health, and development services, the practitioner will also function in the sub-fields of preventive and curative health, on primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

The qualifying learner will be able to:

- Apply the principles of ethics and relevant legislation in the oral healthcare environment within the relevant scope of practice
- Apply management skills and universal precautions to maintain standards of health and safety in the oral healthcare environment
- Promote oral health and prevent oral disease in accordance with the relevant scope of practice
- Apply the process of care in all aspects of oral hygiene practice
- Critique, explain and demonstrate educational, preventive, therapeutic and cosmetic oral interventions expected in terms of the relevant scope of practice
- Collaborate with other health practitioners in providing holistic patient/public care.
- Actively partake in research development that would contribute to the body of evidence of the discipline of oral/dental hygiene.

On successful completion of this Qualification, the learner will be eligible for registration with the Professional Board for Dental Therapy and Oral Hygiene of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) as an independent practitioner.

Rationale:

Good oral health impacts positively on the physical, social, psychological and economic well being of individuals and communities, thereby contributing to an improved quality of life. However, oral disease is highly prevalent in South Africa as indicated by National and other surveys. The oral disease profile requires that intervention be directed simultaneously in the areas of promotion, prevention and therapeutic care at both an individual and community level. The oral hygienist is uniquely placed in that s/he is able to provide preventive, promotive, interceptive and therapeutic care at a primary health care level in both public and private healthcare practice settings. This practitioner can therefore substantially contribute to a reduction in the prevalence of oral disease by providing for the oral health needs and demands of the broader South African population in order to assist patients/clients/communities in fulfilling their human need for wellness.

The South African community requires the services of a practitioner who has the competence to provide cost effective oral healthcare within and beyond the traditional service models. This Qualification will produce competent practitioners who will take cognisance of, and be able to adapt to, the unique circumstances of a changing South Africa with emphasis on equity in health care.

RECOGNIZE PREVIOUS LEARNING?

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LEARNING ASSUMED IN PLACE

- Communication at NQF Level 4.
- Mathematics at NQF Level 4.
- Biology or Life Sciences at NQF Level 4.

It is strongly recommended that the learner is proficient in end-user computing skills at NQF Level 3.

Recognition of Prior Learning:

This Qualification may be achieved in part through the Recognition of Prior Learning. Portfolios of Evidence, endorsed by previous mentors or employers may be presented and may include learning outcomes achieved through formal, informal and/or non formal learning and work experience. Recognition of Prior Learning may be awarded in accordance with the decision of the relevant provider and in agreement with the relevant ETQA.

Access to the Qualification:

Admission is open to all learners in possession of a Senior Certificate or equivalent NQF Level 4 qualification, subject to the additional requirements laid down by the providing institution and/or relevant ETQA.

QUALIFICATION RULES

All the Exit Level Outcomes must be achieved for the learner to be awarded the Qualification.

EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES

1. Apply the principles of ethics, relevant legislation and professional behaviour within the oral healthcare milieu.

2. Apply management principles in a clinical oral healthcare environment:

- Range of administrative duties include but are not limited to:

o Preparation and maintenance of clinical oral health facility and equipment, Patient record keeping, Patient bookings, Stock control, Correspondence, Bookkeeping, Occupational health and safety legislative requirements.

3. Apply universal precautions to avoid cross infection and maintain the highest standards of health and safety.

4. Promote oral health to prevent oral disease in a community.

5. Describe and apply appropriate health education strategies, informed by results of a risk assessment, to individuals and/or communities.

6. Explain and apply preventive interventions within the scope of practice of an oral hygienist.

7. Explain and apply therapeutic and cosmetic interventions within the scope of practice of an oral hygienist.

8. Explain and apply other duties of the oral hygienist within the dental specialties.

• Range of specialties includes but is not limited to general dentistry, orthodontics, prosthodontics, oral and maxillo-facial surgery, oral medicine, periodontics and paedodontics.

9. Develop research skills, conduct a limited research project in the area of oral health and present the findings in the required research format.

Critical Cross-Field Outcomes:

- Identifying and solving problems are demonstrated in patient examination and treatment planning.
- Working effectively with others as a member of a team, group, organisation or community is demonstrated in the interactions between the oral hygienist and other members of the oral healthcare team and the community structures in which they function.
- Organising and managing self is demonstrated in the successful management of patients, health promotion interventions, research activities and clinical facility.
- Collecting, analysing, organising and critically evaluating information is indicated in the successful generation and execution of patient treatment plans, research proposals, health promotion proposals and intervention plans.
- Communicating effectively is demonstrated through the successful delivery of oral health treatments, referrals, education sessions.
- Utilising science and technology effectively and critically is clearly indicated in the successful treatment of patients, health promotion interventions to encourage more healthy lifestyle practices and structural changes to promote oral health.
- Demonstrating an understanding the world as a set of related systems is indicated in the range of activities of a successful oral hygienist and how this practitioner locates self within the broader healthcare system.

ASSOCIATED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 1:

1.1 Ethical and legal responsibilities pertaining to oral healthcare practice are explained, evaluated and applied during all interactions with patients, colleagues and/or the community.

1.2 All treatment is rendered in terms of the Bill of Rights and the Patient Charter and patient confidentiality is maintained throughout.

1.3 Professional and personal growth is achieved through the assumption of various roles within the clinical or community setting and is evidenced during interactions between practitioner and patient and/or practitioner and colleagues.