

### Authority

This standard has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 22 April 2010 pursuant to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009)* (the National Law) with approval taking effect from 1 July 2010.

### Summary

All registrants are required to base their practice on the scope of practice definitions outlined in this standard.

### Scope of application

This standard applies to all applicants and all registered practitioners. It does not apply to students and practitioners who have nonpractising registration.

### Requirements

1. A dental practitioner must not direct another registered practitioner to undertake dental procedures or give advice outside that person's education or competence.
2. Dental practitioners must only perform those dental procedures:
  - a) for which they have been formally educated and trained in programs of study approved by the Board; and
  - b) in which they are competent.
3. Dentists work as independent practitioner who may practise all parts of dentistry and are the clinical team leaders. Dentists may supply and fit dental appliances for the treatment of sleep disorders. They must work in cooperation with the patient's medical practitioner who is responsible for the medical aspects of the management of sleep disordered breathing.
5. Dental prosthetists work as independent practitioners in making, fitting, supplying and repairing removable dentures and flexible, removable mouthguards.
6. Dental hygienists, dental therapists and oral health therapists exercise autonomous decision making in those areas in which they have been formally educated and trained. They may only practice within a structured professional relationship with a dentist. They must not practise as independent practitioners. They may practise in a range of environments that are not limited to direct supervision.

### Definitions

**Independent practitioner** means a practitioner who may practise without supervision.

**Supervision** includes oversight, direction, guidance and/or support.

### References

Dental Board of Australia, *Guidelines for Registration Standards — Scope of Practice Standard* (may be developed)

National Standards in Dentistry Project — undertaken by the Dental Boards of Australia and New Zealand in consultation with the Australian Dental Council

### Review

This standard will commence on 1 July 2010. The Board will review this standard at least every 18 months.