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To: [dentalboardconsultation](#)
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Hi

I would love to express my opinion in the scope of practice for OHT's.

Firstly I strongly believe that in order to provide appropriate dental care to any patient a holistic approach needs to be incorporated and a team effort is mandatory.

I personally work in a great dental atmosphere and have never had any issues in relation to working outside my scope of practice however I have been told by many of my OHT friends that there are times they find themselves forced to work outside their means of practice.

This may be due to a form of pressure enforced by a dentist to complete a treatment plan or by simply being understaffed at a practice and wanting to use an OHT as their wage is not a financial constraint in comparison to that of a dentist's.

Despite the many differences each practice may encounter, I would like to propose that an OHT receives their own provider number and ONLY use it to claim within what their scope permits Eg, debridement procedures, Paediatric procedures and whitening tx etc.

This will permit practices to claim within the practitioners code of conduct and also encourage OHT's to speak up about any extensive treatment being performed as this cannot be claimed by their provider number. Most OHT's work on commission based salary's so having them perform something external to what they claim may also impact the earnings/ wage positively guiding practitioners to work within their scope.

Many dental clinics are owned and managed by members with no dental qualifications who simply hire the staff required with the necessity to the treatment being performed in that practice. Having individual provider numbers used to claim treatment I believe will really provide a clear and concise pathway as to what is within each dental practitioner's scope.

Referrals will then be made to dentists or specialists accordingly to further manage any extensive treatment required and not simply overlooked by a practice that uses 1 provider number for all their staff.

Thank you kindly for enabling us to express our opinion and anecdotal evidence openly in order to shift forward to a safer and equal workplace. This is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards
Victoria