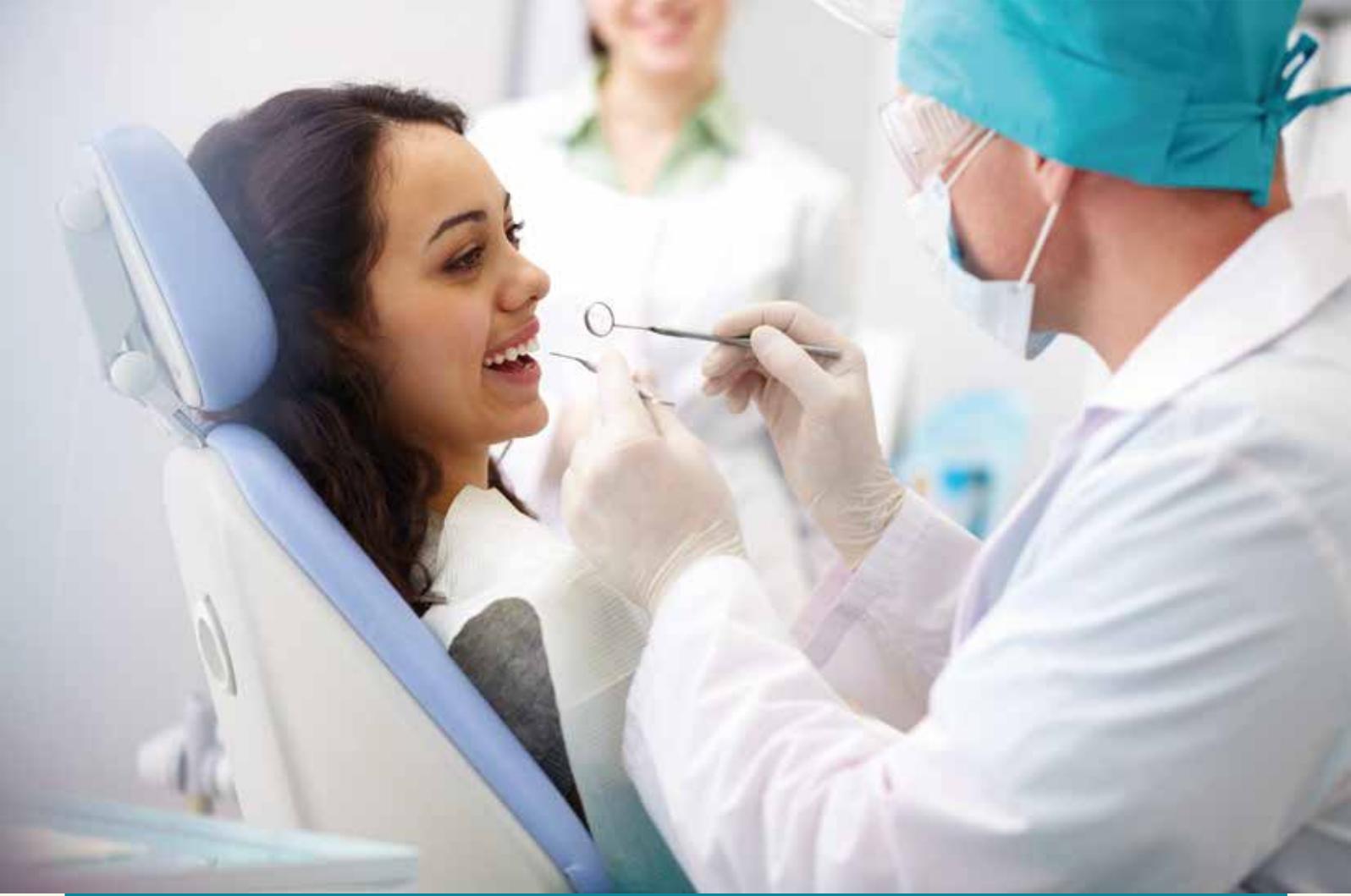


Health Regulation Department



Scope of Practice and Core Competencies
for
General Dentist and Dental Specialist

- 2016 -

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Acknowledgment

Dubai Health Authority (DHA) is pleased to present the scope of practice and clinical responsibilities of general dentists (GD) and dental specialists, which represents a milestone towards fulfilling the DHA's Strategic Objective to "Ensure continuous development of health and medical professionals and attract the highly qualified". This document places emphasis on the procedures that can be performed by licensed dentists in the Emirate of Dubai.

The Health Regulation Department (HRD) in collaboration with subject matter experts whose contributions have been invaluable developed this document. HRD would like to acknowledge these healthcare professionals and to thank them for their dedication to quality in healthcare and their commitment in undertaking such a complex task.

Health Regulation Department
Dubai Health Authority

1. Introduction

Dentistry is defined as the evaluation, diagnosis, prevention and/or treatment (nonsurgical, surgical or related procedures) of diseases, disorders and/or conditions of the oral cavity, maxillofacial area and/or the adjacent and associated structures and their impact on the human body, provided by a General Dentist (GD)/Dental specialist, within the scope of his/her education, training and experience. This practice shall be in accordance with the Dubai Health Authority's (DHA) Code of ethics and professional conduct and applicable United Arab Emirates (UAE) laws and local regulations.

The scope of practice (SOP) for GD and dental specialties is neither comprehensive nor exhaustive, but rather provides guidelines for practice and identifies core competencies.

2. DHA licensing titles

As per the Healthcare Professionals Qualification Requirements (PQR), DHA issues Dentist title under the following licensing titles:

- 2.1 **General Dentist (GD)** title is issued to dentists who have completed basic dental degree followed by the required years of training and/or clinical experience.
- 2.2 **Dental Specialist** title is issued to dentists who have completed basic dental degree and approved specialty degree with the required clinical experience.
- 2.3 **Dental Specialist under supervision** title is issued by DHA to dentists who completed basic dental degree and approved specialty degree but did not meet the required clinical experience. However, DHA no longer issues this title.
 - 2.3.1 Scope of practice of dental specialist under supervision is similar to dental specialist; but shall practice under the direct supervision of a consultant/specialist at a ratio of 3:1 (up to three dental specialists under supervision of one consultant/specialist).
- 2.4 **Dental Consultant** title is issued to dentists who have completed basic dental degree and approved specialty degree listed under Tier 1 and 2 with the required clinical experience.

3. General Dentist

- 3.1. **Definition:** A GD is a healthcare professional who should be able to evaluate, diagnose, prevent and/or treat (non-surgical, surgical or related procedures) diseases, disorders or

conditions of the oral cavity within the scope of her/his education, training and experience.

3.2. Core competencies

- 3.2.1. Manage oral health of the infants, children, adolescents and adults, as well as the unique needs of women, geriatric and special needs patients.
- 3.2.2. Prevent, identify and manage trauma, oral diseases and other oral disorders.
- 3.2.3. Obtain and interpret patient/medical data, including a thorough intra/extra oral examination and use these findings to accurately assess and manage patients.
- 3.2.4. Recognize the manifestations of systemic disease and the effect of the systemic disease and its management on the delivery of dental care.
- 3.2.5. Formulate a comprehensive diagnosis, treatment and/or referral plan for the management of patients. Diagnose and treat various oral diseases and conditions and its related structure after providing the patient with comprehensive management options and their consequences.
- 3.2.6. Apply proper case-selection assessment based on diagnosis, treatment and patient considerations (e.g. patient mental and medical health, radiographic difficulties, morphological difficulties).
- 3.2.7. Prescribe, take, process and interpret intra/extra-oral dental radiographs.
- 3.2.8. Diagnostic and administer local anesthesia in association with procedures related to teeth and soft tissues surrounding or supporting teeth.
- 3.2.9. Prescribe special tests in the course of dental treatment as and when required.
- 3.2.10. Diagnosis & non-surgical management of TMJ Disorders.
- 3.2.11. Provide passive space maintainers when required.
- 3.2.12. Perform vital pulp therapy such as pulp capping and root canal treatment with appropriate case-selection.
- 3.2.13. Remove tooth tissue and/or place materials for the purpose of either temporary or permanent restoration, replacement of tooth structure or the rehabilitation of the dentition.
- 3.2.14. Perform procedures for the purpose of construction, fitting, adjustment, repair or renewal of dentures or corrective dental appliances.

- 3.2.15. Extract teeth according to appropriate case-selection and minor surgical procedure such as biopsy and incision and drainage.
- 3.2.16. Prescribe medications as per the DHA local regulations and UAE Federal laws.
- 3.2.16.1. Prescribe-Controlled Drugs (CD-A) up to (3) days only. Such prescription shall be in hospitals' emergency department only.
- 3.2.16.2. Prescribe Semi Controlled Drugs (CD-B) up to (30) days with no refill.
- 3.2.17. Use Computer Aided Design (CAD)/Computer Aided Manufacture (CAM) for direct and indirect restorations.
- 3.2.18. Promote oral health and disease prevention.
- 3.2.19. If the level of difficulty exceeds the practitioner's experience and comfort, referral to a specialist dentist is required.

Note one: Implantology shall not be practiced unless the GD completes formally DHA recognized training and evaluation. For further information, refer to the DHA Dental Implant Guideline on the DHA website at www.dha.gov.ae.

Note two: The areas of practice that are not included in GD education or training mentioned below shall not be practiced by GDs.

- Orthodontic treatments including clear aligners
- Major maxillofacial surgeries excluding impactions
- Aesthetic facial procedures including Botox and fillers

4. Dental Specialties

4.1. Endodontics

4.1.1. **Definition:** Endodontics is the specialty of dentistry encompassing the study and practice of the biology, etiology, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of diseases and injuries of the dental pulp and associated periradicular conditions.

4.1.2. Core competencies

- 4.1.2.1. Diagnose and treat oral pains of pulpal and/or periradicular origin.
- 4.1.2.2. Prescribe, take, process and interpret intra/extra-oral dental radiographs.

- 4.1.2.3. Preform non-surgical treatment of root canal systems with or without periradicular pathosis of pulpal origin, and the obturation of these root canal systems.
- 4.1.2.4. Perform elective root canal treatment of teeth whenever indicated.
- 4.1.2.5. Place post and core involving the root canal space of endodontically treated teeth.
- 4.1.2.6. Provide a well-fitting definitive coronal restoration.
- 4.1.2.7. Perform surgical repair of pathological tissues or iatrogenic root defects.
- 4.1.2.8. Perform surgical removal of apical root end (apicoectomy) and retrograde filling whenever indicated
- 4.1.2.9. Bleach discolored dentin and enamel of non-vital teeth.
- 4.1.2.10. Retreat teeth previously root canal treated whenever indicated.
- 4.1.2.11. Preform vital pulp therapy such as pulp capping, pulpotomy, apexogenesis and non-vital pulp therapy (apexification and pulp regeneration) for teeth with immature roots.
- 4.1.2.12. Manage endodontic emergencies.
- 4.1.2.13. Manage traumatic injuries to teeth.
- 4.1.2.14. Prescribe antibiotic, anti-inflammatory, analgesics and other medications appropriate to their scope and according to the UAE federal laws and local regulations.

4.2. Dental Radiology

- 4.2.1. **Definition:** Dental Radiology is the specialty of dentistry and discipline of radiology concerned with the production and interpretation of images and data produced by all modalities of radiant energy that are used for the diagnosis and management of diseases, disorders and conditions of the oral and maxillofacial region.
- 4.2.2. **Core competencies**

- 4.2.2.1. Conduct a clinical head and neck examination, take and evaluate medical and dental histories to determine appropriate imaging investigations.
- 4.2.2.2. Prescribe, produce and interpret oral and maxillofacial related x-ray images.
- 4.2.2.3. Understand and abide with Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) regulations and requirements regarding radiation safety and quality assurance.
- 4.2.2.4. Make decisions regarding the use of films, film-screen combinations, processing techniques and other aspects of clinical operation.
- 4.2.2.5. Utilize traditional x-rays, digital imaging of intra/extra-oral structures, Computed Tomography (CT) scans of the head and neck, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), intra-oral camera, as well as ultrasonography (ultrasound imaging).
- 4.2.2.6. Perform tomographic evaluation of the Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) or prospective implant sites.
- 4.2.2.7. Perform detailed evaluation and reporting of images obtained through Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) for surgical and implant procedures.
- 4.2.2.8. Prepare written interpretations and consultative reports.
- 4.2.2.9. Recognize and manage adverse reactions to contrast media.

4.3. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

- 4.3.1. **Definition:** Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is the specialty of dentistry, which includes the diagnosis, surgical and adjunctive treatment of diseases, injuries and defects involving both the functional and aesthetic aspects of the hard and soft tissues of the oral and maxillofacial region.
- 4.3.2. **Core competencies**
 - 4.3.2.1. Diagnose and manage diseases, disorders or injuries of the orofacial complex.

- 4.3.2.2. Diagnose and treat of facial pain.
- 4.3.2.3. Diagnose and manage TMJ disorders and salivary gland diseases.
- 4.3.2.4. Diagnose and manage dento-facial deformities, either acquired, developmental or congenital.
- 4.3.2.5. Prescribe and interpret oral and maxillofacial related x-ray images.
- 4.3.2.6. Perform facial aesthetic cosmetic procedures to enhance appearance and function.
- 4.3.2.7. Perform complex or complicated dento-alveolar procedures including but not limited to extractions and pre-prosthetic surgeries.
- 4.3.2.8. Harvest hard or soft tissue for the purpose of grafting surgery on the orofacial complex.
- 4.3.2.9. Reduce and fix fracture(s) of bone(s) or dislocation of a joint of the orofacial complex via open or close approach.
- 4.3.2.10. Manage and prescribe medication for complex orofacial infections.
- 4.3.2.11. Prescribe medication appropriate to their scope, and according to the UAE federal laws and local regulations.
- 4.3.2.12. Evaluate and plan a course of treatment, and perform pre-prosthetic and prosthetic surgery (such as dental implant¹)
- 4.3.2.13. Surgically treat head and neck cancer by removal of tumors and subsequent reconstruction, including microvascular free tissue transfer.

4.4. Oral Medicine

4.4.1. **Definition:** Oral Medicine is the specialty of dentistry that is concerned with maintenance of oral health, diagnosis and non-surgical management of patients with chronic and medically related disorders of the oral and maxillofacial region.

4.4.2. Core competencies

¹ Refer to the Health Regulation Department Dental Implant Guideline

- 4.4.2.1. Investigate diagnosis and manage soft tissue pathologies and disorders of oral and maxillofacial region including salivary glands dysfunction and oral mucosal lesions.
- 4.4.2.2. Diagnose and manage orofacial diseases of the odontogenic and non-odontogenic region.
- 4.4.2.3. Prescribe and interpret oral and maxillofacial related x-ray images.
- 4.4.2.4. Diagnose and manage bacterial, viral and fungal infections of the oral cavity.
- 4.4.2.5. Interpret and/or seek clarification on laboratory and diagnostic imaging investigation results for subsequent patient care.
- 4.4.2.6. Undertake safe and effective operative techniques for the management of localized benign lesions, or establish tissue diagnosis in case of suspected soft tissue malignancies.
- 4.4.2.7. Diagnose and manage chronic pain conditions of the orofacial region and TMJ disorders.
- 4.4.2.8. Manage the oral health of medically compromised patients.
- 4.4.2.9. Prescribe special tests in the course of dental treatment.
- 4.4.2.10. Prescribe medications appropriate to their scope and according to the UAE federal laws and local regulations.

4.5. Oral Surgery

4.5.1. **Definition:** Oral Surgery is the specialty of dentistry, which includes the diagnosis, surgical and adjunctive treatment of diseases, injuries and defects involving both the functional and aesthetic aspects of the hard and soft tissues of the oral region.

4.5.2. Core competencies

- 4.5.2.1. Diagnose diseases or disorders of the orofacial complex.
- 4.5.2.2. Perform simple and complex dentoalveolar surgeries.
- 4.5.2.3. Harvest intraoral tissue for the purpose of grafting surgery.
- 4.5.2.4. Manage dentoalveolar trauma.
- 4.5.2.5. Perform non-surgical management of TMJ disorders.

- 4.5.2.6. Manage and prescribe medication for oral and dentoalveolar infections.
- 4.5.2.7. Reduce and fix fracture(s) of bone(s) or dislocation of a joint of the orofacial complex.
- 4.5.2.8. Prescribe and interpret oral and maxillofacial related x-ray images
- 4.5.2.9. Perform surgical management of salivary gland disorders limited to the oral cavity.
- 4.5.2.10. Prescribe medications appropriate to their scope and according to the UAE federal laws and local regulations.
- 4.5.2.11. Perform pre-prosthetic and peri-implant diagnosis, treatment planning and surgical procedures².

4.6. Orthodontics

- 4.6.1. **Definition:** Orthodontics is the specialty of dentistry that includes the diagnosis, prevention, interception and correction of malocclusion, as well as neuromuscular and skeletal abnormalities of the developing or mature orofacial structures.
- 4.6.2. **Core competencies**
 - 4.6.2.1. Diagnose and prepare treatment plan for dentofacial anomalies and tooth/arch discrepancy, with coordination and close follow up with other specialties.
 - 4.6.2.2. Prescribe and interpret oral and maxillofacial related x-ray images.
 - 4.6.2.3. Correct and prevent disharmonies of growth between the upper and lower jaws.
 - 4.6.2.4. Guide the development and ultimate position of the teeth.
 - 4.6.2.5. Eliminate any impairment of chewing ability caused by malocclusion.
 - 4.6.2.6. Reduce the susceptibility to dental decay and gum disease caused by crowding of teeth.

² Refer to the Health Regulation Department Dental Implant Guideline

- 4.6.2.7. Eliminate harmful habits.
- 4.6.2.8. Improve orofacial aesthetics.
- 4.6.2.9. Correct occlusion abnormalities.
- 4.6.2.10. Redirect growth and repositioning the jaws.
- 4.6.2.11. Diagnose and manage the TMJ disorders.
- 4.6.2.12. Use all types of clear aligners for the movement or stabilization of dentofacial structures.
- 4.6.2.13. Prescribe medications appropriate to their scope and according to the UAE federal laws and local regulations.

4.7. Pediatric Dentistry

- 4.7.1. **Definition:** Pediatric Dentistry is the specialty of dentistry that provides both primary and comprehensive preventive and therapeutic oral health care for infants and children through adolescence, including those with special care needs.

Pediatric dentistry includes care beyond the age of adolescent for special patient who demonstrate mental challenges.

4.7.2. Core competencies

- 4.7.2.1. Educate and guide parents and children to accept and practice oral care with preventive concepts.
- 4.7.2.2. Diagnose oral pathologies related to infants and children, and perform oral surgical procedures applicable to the patient.
- 4.7.2.3. Diagnose and manage traumatized and affected primary and permanent teeth.
- 4.7.2.4. Prescribe and interpret oral and maxillofacial related x-ray images
- 4.7.2.5. Provide interceptive treatment for children with primary and mixed dentition.
- 4.7.2.6. Provide comprehensive oral health care for children with behavioral problems and special healthcare needs with medical, emotional, mental or physical disabilities.

4.7.2.7. Manage non-nutritive habits such as thumb sucking, finger sucking, lip sucking, pacifier and tongue thrust.

4.7.2.8. Prescribe medications appropriate to their scope and according to the UAE federal laws and local regulations.

4.7.3. **Additional skills required**

4.7.3.1. Complete oral rehabilitation under general anesthesia

4.7.3.2. Conscious sedation

4.7.3.3. Pharmacological and behavior management.

4.8. **Primary Care Dentistry**

4.8.1. **Definition:** Primary Care Dentistry is the specialty of dentistry that includes the science and art of preventing and controlling dental diseases, and promoting dental health through organized dental care programs on a community basis.

4.8.2. **Core competencies**

4.8.2.1. Change public perceptions regarding oral health and disease.

4.8.2.2. Remove known barriers between people and oral health services.

4.8.2.3. Accelerate the building of the science and evidence base and apply science effectively to improve oral health.

4.8.2.4. Establish and support partnerships and alliances among dentists, other healthcare professionals, public health organizations and business and social service groups in order to set common goals to improve and address oral health needs of the public.

4.8.2.5. Strengthen and expand dental research and education capabilities.

4.8.2.6. Develop strategies to address the fiscal needs of the practice, education and research sectors of dentistry to ensure their viability.

4.8.2.7. Utilize the combined resources of the dental profession and dental industry emphasizing on the development of highly targeted, collaborative marketing and public relations initiatives.

4.8.2.8. Screening of chronic and systemic diseases/conditions like smoking, oral lesion, diabetes, sleep apnea, obesity etc.

4.9. Periodontics

4.9.1. **Definition:** Periodontics is the specialty of dentistry, which includes the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the supporting and surrounding tissues of teeth or their substitutes and the maintenance of health, function and aesthetics of these structures and tissues.

4.9.2. Core competencies

- 4.9.2.1. Involve with the buildup and establishment of the hard and soft tissues, and maintain a healthy foundation to support teeth and implants.
- 4.9.2.2. Prescribe and interpret oral and maxillofacial related x-ray images.
- 4.9.2.3. Evaluate patient's occlusion and provide therapy options for periodontally involved teeth.
- 4.9.2.4. Perform oral debridement procedures including scaling, polishing and root planning.
- 4.9.2.5. Perform open flap debridement with or without osseous surgery.
- 4.9.2.6. Perform crown-lengthening procedures.
- 4.9.2.7. Carry out periodontal plastic surgery, aesthetic periodontal surgery, bone augmentation, Guided Tissue Regeneration (GTR) and soft tissue grafting.
- 4.9.2.8. Undertake root resection, hemi-section and bicuspidization.
- 4.9.2.9. Manage acute gingival and periodontal tissues infection/inflammation.
- 4.9.2.10. Place chemotherapeutic agents including slow release devices.
- 4.9.2.11. Prescribe medications appropriate to their scope and according to the UAE federal laws and local regulations.
- 4.9.2.12. Perform implant and peri-implant surgery procedures³.

³ Refer to the Health Regulation Department Dental Implant Guideline

4.10. Prosthodontics

4.10.1. **Definition:** Prosthodontics is the specialty of dentistry pertaining to the diagnosis, treatment planning, rehabilitation and maintenance of the oral function, comfort, appearance and health of patients with clinical conditions associated with missing or deficient teeth and/or oral and maxillofacial tissues using biocompatible substitutes.

4.10.2. Core competencies

- 4.10.2.1. Examine, diagnose and develop individual sequenced treatment plans for partially and completely edentulous patients requiring prosthetic rehabilitation.
- 4.10.2.2. Provide single or multiple tooth restorations, with appropriate fixed or removable prostheses, to restore anatomic form, function and esthetics for patients of all ages.
- 4.10.2.3. Prescribe and interpret oral and maxillofacial related x-ray images.
- 4.10.2.4. Restore patients requiring fixed prosthesis with partially covering restoration or full tooth coverage restoration with direct and indirect material and technique.
- 4.10.2.5. Restore badly destructed teeth with prefabricated post/core build-up and casted post and core.
- 4.10.2.6. Manage patients requiring full mouth rehabilitation, either due to loss of teeth or due to loss of tooth structure.
- 4.10.2.7. Construct balanced complete denture for completely edentulous patients.
- 4.10.2.8. Conduct the principles of removable partial denture design.
- 4.10.2.9. Restore partially and completely edentulous patients with implant supported/retained prostheses using different types of attachment systems.
- 4.10.2.10. Perform occlusal therapy to equilibrate patient's natural dentition and stomatognathic system.
- 4.10.2.11. Diagnose and non-surgical treatment of temporomandibular disorders.

4.10.2.12. Fabricate different types of stents for various clinical conditions
Construct immediate complete and removable partial dentures.

4.10.3. **Additional skills required**

4.10.3.1. Manage geriatric and maxillofacial patients and patients with special needs.

4.10.3.2. Restore acquired and congenital maxillary defects with transient and definitive appliances.

4.10.3.3. Restore mandibular defects following resection surgeries.

4.10.3.4. Fabricate tongue prosthesis.

4.10.3.5. Aid in the treatment of obstructive sleep apnea with different appliances.

4.10.3.6. Perform prosthetic management and fabricate appliances for cancer patients.

4.10.3.7. Fabricate extra-oral prostheses for patients with lost ear, eye and nose.

4.11. Restorative Dentistry

4.11.1. **Definition:** Restorative Dentistry is the specialty of dentistry that is concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and disorders of teeth and their supporting structures, including their repair and replacement.

4.11.2. **Core competencies**

4.11.2.1. Perform various simple and complex restorations of teeth while maintaining harmony between appearance, occlusion and function and maintaining the integrity of the adjacent soft and hard tissues of the oral cavity.

4.11.2.2. Diagnose and manage injured or affected dental pulp because of dental disease and trauma and perform root canal therapy (RCT) if required.

4.11.2.3. Prescribe and interpret oral and maxillofacial related x-ray images.

- 4.11.2.4. Manage and correct occlusal defects from the restorative perspective with an aim to achieve accurate and appropriate occlusal relationship.
- 4.11.2.5. Show a high degree of skill in the choice and execution of appropriate operative techniques at all stages of the planned treatment.
- 4.11.2.6. Provide cosmetic dental treatment utilizing indirect and direct restorations.
- 4.11.2.7. Use CAD/CAM direct and indirect restorations.
- 4.11.3. **Additional skills required**
 - 4.11.3.1. Manage inflammatory periodontal diseases.

4.12. Forensic Dentistry

- 4.12.1. **Definition:** Forensic dentistry is the specialty of dentistry, which involves examination and evaluation of dental evidence to assist legal authorities in criminal or civil proceedings.
- 4.12.2. **Core competencies**
 - 4.12.2.1. Collect and document dental evidence using specialized techniques and methods.
 - 4.12.2.2. Antemortem and postmortem dental identification through comparing, reconstructing or investigating dental evidence (bones, teeth, radiographs, serologic and genetic remnants) in cases of violent crimes, missing person or mass disaster scenarios.
 - 4.12.2.3. Document and analyze bite marks.
 - 4.12.2.4. Recognize the signs and symptoms of human abuse (including intimate-partner violence (IPV), elder abuse and child abuse) and the dental healthcare practitioner's rights and responsibilities when reporting such abuse.
 - 4.12.2.5. Provide expert testimony in criminal and civil litigation.
 - 4.12.2.6. Manage and maintain all unique dental information in the patient's dental records that comply with legal requirements, for dental

identification of the patient and reduce potential malpractice litigation.

4.12.2.7. Assess age and determine sex of an individual.

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