



SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF GENERAL DENTISTRY



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GENERAL DENTISTRY PRACTICE

Dentists are oral health professionals who play a critical role in maintaining and promoting the health of their patients. The scope of dentists' practice encompasses a wide range of services, from routine dental exams and cleanings to more complex procedures such as root canals, fillings, and oral surgery. Dentists are also responsible for educating their patients on proper oral hygiene and providing guidance on how to maintain healthy teeth and gums. Understanding the scope of dentists' practice is crucial for patients seeking dental care and for dental professionals providing it.

General dentists collaborate with medical specialists and other health professionals in the multidisciplinary care of patients, the emergency department, and inpatient and outpatient settings. The practice of any individual dental surgeon will depend on their location and its resources, the needs of that community/setting, and the other surgical and nonsurgical specialists working in that location. General dentists typically practice in the full breadth of the discipline, performing a wide spectrum of procedures to meet the needs of the community.

General dentists work with specialists from medical disciplines and specialized dentistry disciplines to achieve the best clinical outcomes by engaging in shared decision-making with an emphasis on optimal patient outcomes. The care they provide is delivered by working effectively with other health care professionals including nurses, therapists, public health workers, and social workers.

DEFINITION

A General Dentist is a healthcare professional who has a basic degree in dentistry and is registered in MMDC and is licensed to practice in Maldives. He/she should be able to assess, diagnose, prevent, and/or treat diseases, disorders, or conditions of the mouth within their education, training, and experience, whether through surgery or non-surgical procedures.

GENERAL DENTISTRY COMPETENCIES

A. Medical knowledge

1. Practice medicine within their defined scope of practice and expertise

- 1.1.1. Take care of the oral health of people of all ages, including infants, children, adolescents, and adults. They can also manage the specific needs of elderly, and patients with special needs.
- 1.1.2. Prevent, detect, and treat injuries, oral diseases, and other oral disorders
- 1.1.3. Gather and analyse patient and medical information, including a comprehensive examination of the inside and outside of the mouth, to make an accurate assessment and provide appropriate treatment.

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- 1.1.4. Identify the symptoms of systemic diseases and understand how these diseases and their treatments can affect the provision of dental care.
- 1.1.5. Create a thorough treatment plan for diagnosis, and/or referral of patients. They can diagnose and treat different oral diseases and conditions and explain various management options and their potential outcomes to the patient.
- 1.1.6. Use appropriate criteria to choose the best course of action based on diagnosis, treatment, and patient-related factors, such as their mental and physical health, as well as any challenges that may arise during radiographic or morphological examinations.
- 1.1.7. Order, capture, develop, and analyse dental radiographs taken inside and outside the mouth.
- 1.1.8. Whoever is practicing should have a special training to use higher radiological technologies utilized in dentistry.
- 1.1.9. Diagnose and provide local anaesthesia during procedures that involve teeth and the soft tissues that surround or support them.
- 1.1.10. Order specific tests when necessary during dental treatment.
- 1.1.11. Diagnosis & non-surgical management of TMJ Disorders.
- 1.1.12. Provide passive space maintainers when required.
- 1.1.13. Perform vital pulp therapy, including pulp capping and root canal treatment, and choose the appropriate cases for these procedures.
- 1.1.14. Remove tooth tissue and/or place materials to restore, replace, or rehabilitate tooth structure temporarily or permanently.
- 1.1.15. Carry out procedures to construct, fit, adjust, repair, or replace dentures or other corrective dental appliances.
- 1.1.16. Remove teeth based on appropriate case selection and perform minor surgical procedures such as biopsy, incision, and drainage.
- 1.1.17. Prescribe medications according to the local regulations of the Maldives.
- 1.1.18. Prescribe controlled drugs...???
- 1.1.19. Use computer-aided design (CAD) and computer-aided manufacture (CAM) for creating both direct and indirect restorations.
- 1.1.20. Promote oral health and disease prevention.
- 1.1.21. If a dental procedure exceeds the practitioner's expertise and comfort level, it is necessary to refer the patient to a specified specialist.

2. Perform a patient-centred clinical assessment and establish a management plan

- 2.1. Prioritize issues to be addressed in a patient encounter
 - 2.1.1. Recognize, resuscitate, and stabilize patients who have sustained major injuries, or are at risk of cardiopulmonary arrest
- 2.2. Elicit a history, perform a physical exam, select appropriate investigations, and interpret their results for the purpose of diagnosis and management, disease prevention, and health promotion

3. Plan and perform procedures and therapies for the purpose of assessment and/or management

- 3.1. Determine the most appropriate procedures or therapies



- 3.2. Obtain and document informed consent, explaining the risks and benefits of, and the rationale for, a proposed procedure or therapy
 - 3.2.1. Recognize and address challenges arising in emergency situations and when patient capacity to provide consent is limited
- 3.3. Prioritize procedures or therapies, taking into account clinical urgency and available resources
4. Establish plans for ongoing care and, when appropriate, timely consultation
 - 4.1. Implement a patient-centred care plan that supports ongoing care, follow-up on investigations, response to treatment, and further consultation
 - 4.1.1. Identify indications for consultation with other health care professionals
 - 4.1.2. Provide follow-up on results of investigations and response to treatment
 - 4.1.3. Recognize and manage complications
 - 4.1.4. Provide referral
5. Actively contribute, as an individual and as a member of a team providing care, to the continuous improvement of health care quality and patient safety
 - 5.1. Recognize and respond to harm from health care delivery, including patient safety incidents
 - 5.2. Adopt strategies that promote patient safety and address human and system factors
 - 5.2.1. Apply strategies to enhance patient and provider safety and reduce the risk of complications from dental interventions
6. A general dentist may practice the full breadth of the scope, but must perform specific procedure with appropriate level of training.
 - 6.1 A General Dentist cannot practice implantology until they have completed a recognized training or fellowship – a minimum of 3 months.
 - 6.2 A General Dentist cannot practice laser dentistry unless they have a recognized training or fellowship – a minimum of 3 months.
 - 6.3 A General Dentists are not allowed to practice in areas that are not covered by their education or training. The following are not within the scope of practice for General Dentists).
 - 6.3.1 *Orthodontic treatments such as clear aligners,*
 - 6.3.2 *major maxillofacial surgeries (except for impactions)*
 - 6.3.3 Dentists who wants to practice these procedure should have a minimum 6 -12 months of recognized training.
 - 6.4 General Dentists are not authorized to perform aesthetic facial procedures, and they should have a recognized training or fellowship in aesthetic dentistry – a minimum of 3 months.

B. Communication skills

As Communicators, general dentists form relationships with patients and their families that facilitate the gathering and sharing of essential information for effective health care.



1. Establish professional therapeutic relationships with patients and their families

- 1.1. Communicate using a patient-centred approach that encourages patient and family trust and autonomy and is characterized by empathy, respect, and compassion
- 1.2. Optimize the physical environment for patient and family comfort, dignity, privacy, engagement, and safety
- 1.3. Recognize when the perspectives, values, or biases of patients, patients' families, physicians, or other health care professionals may have an impact on the quality of care, and modify the approach to the patient and family accordingly
- 1.4. Respond to a patient and family's non-verbal behaviours to enhance communication
- 1.5. Manage disagreements and emotionally charged conversations
 - 1.5.1. Address concerns regarding suspicion of non-accidental trauma
- 1.6. Adapt to the unique needs and preferences of each patient and to each patient's clinical condition and circumstances
 - 1.6.1. Demonstrate effective, age-appropriate communication of treatment plans to paediatric patients and elderly
 - 1.6.2. Respond to challenges arising in patients with special needs, ensuring appropriate communication with patient and the family or public trustee to meet and achieve timely management in the interests of the patient

2. Elicit and synthesize accurate and relevant information, incorporating the perspectives of patients and their families

- 2.1. Use patient-centred interviewing skills to effectively gather relevant biomedical and psychosocial information
- 2.2. Provide a clear structure for and manage the flow of an entire patient encounter
- 2.3. Seek and synthesize relevant information from other sources, including the patient's family, with the patient's consent

3. Share health care information and plans with patients and their families

- 3.1. Share information and explanations that are clear, accurate, and timely, while assessing for patient and family understanding
- 3.2. Convey treatment options, including operative, nonoperative, interventional measures
- 3.3. Disclose harmful patient safety incidents to patients and their families



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4. Engage patients and their families in developing plans that reflect the patient's health care needs and goals

- 4.1. Facilitate discussions with patients and their families in a way that is respectful, non-judgmental, and culturally sensitive
- 4.2. Assist patients and their families to identify, access, and make use of information and communication technologies to support their care and manage their health
- 4.3. Use communication skills and strategies that help patients and their families make informed decisions regarding their health

5. Document and share written and electronic information about the medical encounter to optimize clinical decision-making, patient safety, confidentiality, and privacy

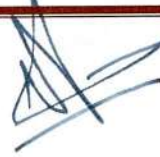
- 5.1. Document clinical encounters in an accurate, complete, timely, and accessible manner, in compliance with regulatory and legal requirements
 - 5.1.1. Write orders and progress notes that are well-organized and legible
 - 5.1.2. Complete hospital discharge summaries in a concise and timely manner
 - 5.1.3. Write well-organized letters, providing clear direction to the referring physician, other health professionals, and third party agents (e.g., insurance boards) where indicated
 - 5.1.4. Prepare concise, clear descriptions of surgical procedures
 - 5.1.5. Provide appropriate and accurate clinical, imaging and intraoperative information on pathology specimen requisitions
- 5.2. Communicate effectively using a written health record, electronic medical record, or other digital technology
- 5.3. Share information with patients and others in a manner that enhances understanding and respects patient privacy and confidentiality

C. Scholarly skills

As Scholars, dentists demonstrate a lifelong commitment to excellence in practice through continuous learning, and by teaching others, evaluating evidence, and contributing to scholarship.

1. Engage in the continuous enhancement of their professional activities through ongoing learning

- 1.1. Develop, implement, monitor, and revise a personal learning plan to enhance professional practice
- 1.2. Identify opportunities for learning and improvement by regularly reflecting on and assessing their performance using various internal and external data sources
 - 1.2.1. Recognize deficits in knowledge and technical skills and correct them



- through targeted learning
- 1.2.2. Recognize and reflect on surgical outcomes, including complications, and other learning opportunities in practice
- 1.3. Engage in collaborative learning to continuously improve personal practice and contribute to collective improvements in practice
 - 1.3.1. Conduct practice audits, including the processes and outcomes of operations and other components of care.

- 2. Teach students, the public, and other health care professionals
 - 2.1. Recognize the influence of role-modelling and the impact of the formal, informal, and hidden curriculum on learners
 - 2.2. Promote a safe and respectful learning environment
 - 2.3. Ensure patient safety is maintained when learners are involved
 - 2.4. Plan and deliver learning activities
 - 2.4.1. Employ the principles of adult learning
 - 2.4.2. Employ approaches that account for different learning styles
 - 2.5. Provide feedback to enhance learning and performance
 - 2.6. Assess and evaluate learners, teachers, and programs in an educationally appropriate manner

- 3. Integrate best available evidence into practice
 - 3.1. Recognize practice uncertainty and knowledge gaps in clinical and other professional encounters and generate focused questions that can address them
 - 3.2. Identify, select, and navigate pre-appraised resources
 - 3.3. Critically evaluate the integrity, reliability, and applicability of health-related research and literature
 - 3.4. Integrate evidence into decision-making in their practice

- 4. Contribute to the creation and dissemination of knowledge and practices applicable to health
 - 4.1. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific principles of research and scholarly inquiry and the role of research evidence in health care
 - 4.2. Identify ethical principles for research and incorporate them into obtaining informed consent, considering potential harms and benefits, and vulnerable populations

- 4.3. Contribute to the work of a research program
- 4.4. Pose questions amenable to scholarly investigation and select appropriate methods to address them
- 4.5. Summarize and communicate to professional and lay audiences, including patients and their families, the findings of relevant research and scholarly inquiry

D. Professionalism

General dentists are committed to the health and well-being of individual patients and society through ethical practice, high personal standards of behaviour, accountability to the profession and society, physician-led regulation, and maintenance of personal health.

1. Demonstrate a commitment to patients by applying best practices and adhering to high ethical standards
 - 1.1. Exhibit appropriate professional behaviours and relationships in all aspects of practice, demonstrating honesty, integrity, humility, commitment, compassion, respect, altruism, respect for diversity, and maintenance of confidentiality
 - 1.1.1. Identify limits in their own expertise
 - 1.1.2. Respect the boundaries of the consultative role
 - 1.2. Demonstrate a commitment to excellence in all aspects of practice
 - 1.3. Recognize and respond to ethical issues encountered in practice
 - 1.4. Recognize and manage conflicts of interest
 - 1.5. Exhibit professional behaviours in the use of technology-enabled communication
2. Demonstrate a commitment to society by recognizing and responding to societal expectations in health care
 - 2.1. Demonstrate accountability to patients, society, and the profession by responding to societal expectations of dentists
 - 2.2. Demonstrate a commitment to patient safety and quality improvement
3. Demonstrate a commitment to the profession by adhering to standards and participating in surgeon-led regulation
 - 3.1. Fulfil and adhere to the professional and ethical codes, standards of practice, and laws governing practice
 - 3.1.1. Apply professional standards and laws governing capacity and competence for medical decision making





- 3.1.2. Apply the law as well as local policies and procedures relevant to substitute decision making, and documentation of advance directives and goals of care
- 3.1.3. Maintain public safety through adherence to requirements for mandatory reporting, such as driving restrictions and reportable infections
- 3.1.4. Fulfil professional standards of practice by participating in programs that support and record continuing professional development
- 3.2. Recognize and respond to unprofessional and unethical behaviours in physicians and other colleagues in the health care professions
- 3.3. Participate in peer assessment and standard-setting
- 4. Demonstrate a commitment to physician health and well-being to foster optimal patient care
 - 4.1. Exhibit self-awareness and manage influences on personal well-being and professional performance
 - 4.1.1. Develop effective strategies to monitor fatigue and mitigate its effects on clinical performance
 - 4.1.2. Maintain capacity for professional clinical performance in challenging situations
 - 4.1.3. Apply strategies to mitigate the personal impact of patient safety incidents and adverse outcomes
 - 4.2. Manage personal and professional demands for a sustainable practice throughout the General dentists life cycle
 - 4.3. Promote a culture that recognizes, supports, and responds effectively to colleagues in need
 - 4.3.1. Support colleagues in mitigating the impact of patient safety incidents and adverse outcomes on personal well-being

E. Leadership and social engagement skills

General dentists engage with others to contribute to a vision of a high-quality health care system and take responsibility for the delivery of excellent patient care through their activities as clinicians, administrators, scholars, or teachers. General dentists also contribute their expertise and influence as they work with communities or patient populations to improve health. They work with those they serve to determine and understand needs, speak on behalf of others when required, and support the mobilization of resources to effect change.

- 1. Contribute to the improvement of health care delivery in teams, organizations, and systems
 - 1.1. Apply the science of quality improvement to contribute to improving systems of patient care
 - 1.1.1. Participate in patient safety or quality improvement initiatives
 - 1.1.2. Engage with other health care professionals in plan-do-study-act cycles to improve systems of patient care
 - 1.2. Contribute to a culture that promotes patient safety



- 1.3. Analyse patient safety incidents to enhance systems of care
 - 1.3.1. Analyse harmful patient safety incidents and near misses
 - 1.3.2. Employ a systems-based approach to develop solutions for quality improvement and patient safety issues
- 1.4. Use health informatics to improve the quality of patient care and optimize patient safety
2. Engage in the stewardship of health care resources
 - 2.1. Allocate health care resources for optimal patient care
 - 2.1.1. Demonstrate resource stewardship in clinical care
 - 2.1.2. Apply knowledge of the resources available in various health care settings
 - 2.2. Apply evidence and management processes to achieve cost-appropriate care
3. Demonstrate leadership in professional practice
 - 3.1. Demonstrate leadership skills to enhance health care
 - 3.2. Facilitate change in health care to enhance services and outcomes
4. Manage career planning, finances, and health human resources in a practice
 - 4.1. Set priorities and manage time to integrate practice and personal life
 - 4.1.1. Manage time and prioritize tasks
 - 4.1.2. Respond to patient care responsibilities between scheduled outpatient clinic visits, including timely review of tests results, and direct requests from patients and other health care professionals
 - 4.1.3. Integrate supervisory and teaching responsibilities into the overall management of the clinical service
 - 4.1.4. Demonstrate efficiency and effectiveness in leading the physician team
 - 4.2. Manage a career and a practice
 - 4.2.1. Adjust educational experiences to acquire or maintain competencies necessary for future practice
 - 4.2.2. Describe practice patterns in the discipline
 - 4.2.3. Demonstrate knowledge of ethical billing practices
 - 4.3. Implement processes to ensure personal practice improvement



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5. Respond to an individual patient's health needs by advocating with the patient within and beyond the clinical environment
 - 5.1. Work with patients to address determinants of health that affect them and their access to needed health services or resources
 - 5.1.1. Recognize potential barriers to comprehension and learning such as illness, literacy, and language skills
 - 5.1.2. Facilitate timely patient access to health services and resources
 - 5.2. Work with patients and their families to increase opportunities to adopt healthy behaviours
 - 5.2.1. Select patient education resources
 - 5.2.2. Apply the principles of behaviour change during conversations with patients about adopting healthy behaviours
 - 5.2.3. Counsel and support patients regarding risk factor reduction, such as smoking cessation
 - 5.3. Incorporate disease prevention, health promotion, and health surveillance into interactions with individual patients
 - 5.3.1. Work with the patient and their family to identify opportunities for disease prevention, health promotion, and health protection
 - 5.3.2. Evaluate the potential benefits and harms of health screening with the patient
6. Respond to the needs of the communities or populations they serve by advocating with them for system-level change in a socially accountable manner
 - 6.1. Work with a community or population to identify the determinants of health that affect them
 - 6.2. Improve clinical practice by applying a process of continuous quality improvement to disease prevention, health promotion, and health surveillance activities
 - 6.3. Contribute to a process to improve health in the community or population they serve

