



MEDIA STATEMENT

ENFORCEMENT OF THE DENTAL ACT 2018

The Dental Act 2018 [Act 804] will come into force on 1 January 2022 except for three (3) provisions which will come into force on 1 January 2025. This Act provides for the establishment of the Malaysian Dental Council and the Malaysian Dental Therapist Board, registration of dental surgeon and dental therapist, regulation of the practice of dentistry and related matters. The Act which contains 9 Parts and 104 sections requires that only qualified, competent and professional practitioners be registered, and qualified to provide dental services. With this, the quality of dental services and patient safety are guaranteed, as well as increase the people's confidence and trust in dental services.

This Act will replace the Dental Act 1971 [Act 51] which has successfully regulated the practice of dentistry for 50 years. However with the development of practice and technology in dentistry, a new Act with wider jurisdiction and provisions covering all aspects of the latest dental practice is needed. Among the new provisions in the Dental Act 2018 are the Professional Qualifying Examination for the purpose of registration as a dental surgeon, registration of dental specialist and dental therapist, requirement of Continuing Professional Development points and Professional Indemnity Protection Cover to apply for practicing certificate and enforcement on the practice of dentistry.

All dental graduates who wish to register with the Malaysian Dental Council must pass the Professional Qualification Examination. For those with qualifications listed in the Second Schedule of the Dental Act 1971, they are allowed to register with the Malaysian Dental Council without having to sit for the Professional Qualification Examination. This permission is only applicable for a period of five (5) years from the date this Act comes into force, which is from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2026.

Under this Act, dental surgeon registered with the Malaysian Dental Council can choose to perform compulsory services in the public or private service. A dental surgeon with a post-graduate specialist qualification approved by the Council may apply to be registered as a dental specialist in any of the twelve (12) dental specialties from February 2022.

In line with current developments, all practitioners will be required to collect Continuing Professional Development points and have Professional Indemnity Cover, prior to applying for practicing certificate. However, this provision will only take effect on 1 January 2025.

For any further information regarding the enforcement of this Act, please contact the Oral Health Program, Ministry of Health Malaysia at ohd@moh.gov.my or the Malaysian Dental Council at mdc@moh.gov.my.

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MINISTER OF HEALTH MALAYSIA

8 December 2021