



## Circular No. (07/2021)

<b>From</b>	Department of Healthcare Professions / Ministry of Public Health
<b>To</b>	All licensed Healthcare Practitioners in the State of Qatar (Governmental/Private) All licensed healthcare facilities / focal points in the State of Qatar
<b>Subject</b>	Update and Approval of new scopes within the “Allied Health Practitioners” scopes list
<b>Date</b>	9 August 2021

“The Department of Healthcare Professions (DHP) presents to you its compliments”

In the Department of Healthcare Professions’ pursuit to cope up with the best regional and international practices in the field of the registration/licensing, and in response to some incoming requests and after presenting this subject to the Permanent Licensing Committee in their 13th meeting, which was held on 28/6/2021; the following have been decided:

- Updating the registration/licensing requirements and approval of the scope of practice of Dental Assistant and Dental Hygienist scopes. Please refer to the attachments for changes in the mentioned requirements.
- Add the scope of Surgical Technologist to the list of approved AHP scopes as an alternative to the Operating Theater Technician and specify its registration/licensing requirements and the scope of practice.
- Cease the issuance of new licenses for Operating Theatre Technician. However, practitioners currently licensed in this scope must apply to change their scope to Surgical Technologist if they meet the requirements.
- Currently licensed Operating Theatre Technicians will remain in their status unchanged if they do not meet the registration/licensing requirements as Surgical Technologist and can continue to renew their license once they complete the renewal requirements.

Attachments:

- Registration/licensing requirements of the above-mentioned scopes

**For further information, kindly contact:**

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**Department of Healthcare Professions/Ministry of Public Health**



Criteria	Dental Assistant
<b>Definition</b>	<p>The dental assistant is a dental health professional who holds a current, valid license issued under a national authority or a board that authorizes them to practice dental assisting and use the title registered dental assistant.</p> <p>A registered dental assistant may perform, under the direct supervision of a Dentist, a variety of tasks assisting the dentist during dental procedures and other duties following advanced training in Intra-Oral Skills, i.e., Dental radiography, tooth polishing, placement, and removal of rubber dams</p>
<b>Practice Settings</b>	<p>Dental Assistant services are provided in a variety of settings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Outpatient - Different specialty areas which include endodontics, prosthodontics, orthodontics, pedodontics, periodontics &amp; implant surgery and dental diagnostic &amp; surgical sciences</li> <li>2. Day Care - For compromised adult patient and pediatric patients</li> </ol>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bachelor's degree in Dentistry or</li> <li>▪ 3 years Diploma in General Nursing (GN) or</li> <li>▪ 2 years Diploma in Dental Assistant Program</li> </ul>
<b>Scope of Practice</b>	<p>Dental Assistants assist the dentist during dental procedures, examinations and patient treatments and perform other duties following advanced training in Intra-Oral Skills, i.e., Dental radiography, tooth polishing, placement, and removal of rubber dams They often work chair-side as dentists examine and treat patients.</p> <p>The dental Assistant performs many tasks requiring both interpersonal and technical skills and may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preparing the physical setting of the clinic</li> <li>▪ Retrieves, sets up and lays out dental equipment and dental instruments, and mixes materials</li> <li>▪ Assist the dentist by holding and passing instruments and retracting tissues and clearing patient's mouth from saliva or dental material using handheld suction, and air-spraying equipment.</li> <li>▪ Obtain patient's dental medical history, maintain treatment records, and update patient's files as needed sterilize the dental equipment after every use, and set-up instrument trays.</li> <li>▪ Assists processing dental radiographs as dentist orders and assist in the monitoring and maintenance of radiation safety procedures and protocols.</li> <li>▪ Provide patients with dental advice on how to maintain oral health, and instructions for tooth brushing and flossing.</li> <li>▪ Respond to patient queries and complaints, and assist in resolving concerns.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monitors and maintains dental equipment and instruments (lubricates, cleans, flushes and drains equipment, reporting of defective equipment) and maintain inventory.</li> <li>▪ Fills orders for dental prosthetics, including dentures, bridges, crowns, veneers and inlays. They create models of patients' mouths from physical and sometimes computerized molds. Models are created with plaster, wax, porcelain, metal and hand tools.</li> </ul>
<b>Licensure</b>	The Dental Assistant should be eligible for license in the State of Qatar through Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners (DHP).
<b>Experience</b>	For overseas candidates: A minimum of 1 year experience in Dental Assisting For Qatari Nationals and long-term residents, please refer to DHP circular No.24/2020
<b>Competency validation</b>	Competency is validated by passing the DHP Licensing Exam (Prometric). Proof of holding a current CPR/First Aid certificate at a level acceptable to DHP. Require to provide evidence of fulfilling Continuing Professional Development credit requirement as per DHP Circular No. I (2014) as applicable to the profession.
<b>Others Requirement for Evaluation &amp; Registration</b>	<b><i>(Refer to DHP requirements for license Registration/Evaluation)</i></b> <a href="http://www.dhp.org.qa/en/Pages/HowToRegisterToPracticeInQatar.aspx">http://www.dhp.org.qa/en/Pages/HowToRegisterToPracticeInQatar.aspx</a>
<b>Requirements for License renewal</b>	<b><i>(Refer to DHP requirement for license Registration/Evaluation)</i></b> <a href="http://www.dhp.org.qa/en/Pages/HowToRegisterToPracticeInQatar.aspx">http://www.dhp.org.qa/en/Pages/HowToRegisterToPracticeInQatar.aspx</a>
<p><b>Note: Applicant with break from practice please see DHP “Break from Practice Policy”</b> <a href="https://dhp.moph.gov.qa//en/Documents/Policy%20on%20Break%20from%20Practice.pdf">https://dhp.moph.gov.qa//en/Documents/Policy%20on%20Break%20from%20Practice.pdf</a></p>	



Criteria	Dental Hygienist
<b>Definition</b>	<p>A dental hygienist is an oral health professional who is responsible for preventing and treating oral diseases. Dental hygienists perform much of their work independently, with only general supervision from a licensed dentist. Dental hygienists are important part of dentist-led teams.</p> <p>Once registered, hygienists work independently of or alongside dentists and other dental professionals to provide full oral health care. They have the training and education that focus on and specialize in the prevention and treatment of many oral diseases.</p>
<b>Practice Settings</b>	<p>In a clinic or hospital setting, a Dental Hygienist provide services under the supervision of a licensed dentist or independently in a variety of settings including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Outpatient - Different specialty areas which include endodontics, prosthodontics, orthodontics, pedodontics and periodontics &amp; implant surgery</li> <li>4. Day Care - For compromised adult patient and pediatric patients</li> </ol>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 4-year Bachelors in Dental surgery (BDS) or</li> <li>▪ 4-year Bachelors in Degree in Allied Dental Science (BSc) or</li> <li>▪ 3-year Diploma in Dental Hygiene</li> </ul>
<b>Scope of Practice</b>	<p>A dental hygienist's major role is in the provision of oral health education and the prevention of oral disease to promote healthy oral behaviors.</p> <p>The dental hygiene services include assessing general and oral health status, advising patients on oral hygiene, removing dental deposits and stains, applying cavity – preventing agents, performing radiographic exams, examining patients' teeth and gums, taking measurements, taking impressions and recording the presence of oral diseases and abnormalities. The primary task is in prevention and non-surgical treatment of periodontal diseases.</p> <p>Dental hygienists' practice in a team with clinical guidance provided by a practicing dentist or dental specialist, though some aspects of the scope of practice is provided under supervision.</p>
<b>Licensure</b>	<p>The Dental Hygienist must apply for licensing through Department of Healthcare Practitioners (DHP) in Ministry of Public Health (MOPH).</p>
<b>Experience</b>	<p>Overseas candidates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A minimum of 2 years' experience in Dental Hygiene</li> </ul> <p>For Qatari Nationals, Qatar Universities graduates, offspring of Qatari women or offspring of residents, please refer to the DHP Circular No.24/2020.</p>



<b>Competency validation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Passing the DHP licensing examination unless exempted, please refer to Circular No.24/2020, and the qualifying examination policy at the following link: <a href="https://dhp.moph.gov.qa/en/Documents/Qualifying%20Examination%20Policy.pdf">https://dhp.moph.gov.qa/en/Documents/Qualifying%20Examination%20Policy.pdf</a></li><li>• Verification of the educational qualifications and relevant graduate clinical experience.</li></ul>
<b>Others Requirement for Evaluation &amp; Registration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>(Refer to the DHP requirements for license Registration/Evaluation)</b> <a href="https://dhp.moph.gov.qa/en/Pages/HowToRegisterToPracticeInQatar.aspx">https://dhp.moph.gov.qa/en/Pages/HowToRegisterToPracticeInQatar.aspx</a></li></ul>
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<b>Note: Applicant with break from practice please see the DHP “Break from Practice Policy” at the following link:</b> <a href="https://dhp.moph.gov.qa/en/Documents/Policy%20on%20Break%20from%20Practice.pdf">https://dhp.moph.gov.qa/en/Documents/Policy%20on%20Break%20from%20Practice.pdf</a>	



Criteria	Surgical Technologist
<b>Definition</b>	<p>The Surgical Technologist is a professional who holds a current valid license issued under a national authority or board that authorizes them to practice their profession and use the title Surgical Technologist.</p> <p>A Surgical Technologist assists surgeons during surgical procedures by anticipating the surgeon's needs in facilitating the proper use of instruments, equipment and its application to make sure the procedure is executed efficiently.</p>
<b>Practice Settings</b>	<p>Surgical Technologists may provide services in a variety of settings including but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical facilities in government and private sectors which offers a variety of specialties, including Labor and delivery, Urology, Cardiology and Neurology</li> <li>• Operating rooms (OR)</li> <li>• Obstetric suites (OB)</li> <li>• Recovery Room (only if they have nursing background)</li> <li>• Ambulatory surgery suites</li> <li>• Day care surgery units</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<p>Bachelor's degree in Nursing/Midwifery</p> <p>or</p> <p>Diploma in Nursing</p> <p>or</p> <p>3-year Diploma in Surgical Technology</p>
<b>Scope of Practice</b>	<p>The Surgical Technologists are the most knowledgeable and reliable member of the Operating Room team concerning the proper use of surgical instruments and equipment.</p> <p>The Surgical Technologist will carry out the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible for the overall preparation of the assigned specialty such as, Nephrology, Cardio Thoracic, Orthopedic, Neurosurgery, ENT, Ophthalmology, Surgery etc. and ensures that the appropriate sets of the required instruments, equipment and accessories are available.</li> <li>• Consults with OR in charge to determine the Operating Room schedule according to respective specialty and ensures the supply of instruments and equipment required for the procedures</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinates with Engineering; Bioengineering and CSSD department and follow up of items which may need repair or replacement.</li> <li>• Maintains costly medical equipment, including Operating Microscope, Brain lab, Robotic surgical equipment etc.</li> <li>• Assists in ordering needed consumables and other surgical accessories.</li> <li>• Troubleshoots surgical equipment malfunctions, routing non-functional equipment to the proper department for repair.</li> <li>• Provides direct patient care after completing competency validation in the assigned unit, i.e., prepare patients for surgery by washing and disinfecting incision sites, inserts peripheral intravenous catheters, passes instruments and other supplies during the surgery and after the surgery.</li> <li>• Follows operating room infection control practice.</li> <li>• Participates in cleaning and disinfecting of delicate equipment for the specialty.</li> <li>• Maintains appropriate supplies and equipment as required by the surgeons in supply carts, and document needs/usage for supervisor utilization as required.</li> <li>• Evaluates the quality of sterile consumables and equipment.</li> <li>• Assists surgeons in major surgeries.</li> <li>• Liaises with surgeon to improve and update instruments and equipment.</li> <li>• Acts as a resource person for nurses and other healthcare team members by providing appropriate instructions and technical guidance.</li> <li>• Develops specialty Nursing team for the work continuity to cover the work 24/7.</li> <li>• Checks the safety of patients from the time patient enters Operating Room until transfer to Recovery Room.</li> <li>• Ensures completeness of documentation before and after surgery.</li> <li>• Maintains his/her continuing professional development.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Licensure</b></p>	<p>The Surgical Technologist must apply for registration and licensing certification through Department of Healthcare Practitioners (DHP) in Ministry of Public Health (MOPH).</p> <p><a href="https://dhp.moph.gov.qa/en/Pages/HowToRegisterToPracticeInQatar.aspx">https://dhp.moph.gov.qa/en/Pages/HowToRegisterToPracticeInQatar.aspx</a></p>
<p><b>Experience</b></p>	<p>Overseas candidates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidates with Nursing Diploma or bachelor's degree in Nursing/Midwifery: 5-year post-graduation experience in Operating Room according to the area of specialization.</li> <li>• Candidates with diploma in Surgical Technology: a minimum of 3-year experience post-graduation experience in Operating Room according to the area of specialization</li> </ul> <p>For Qatari Nationals, Qatar Universities graduates, offspring of Qatari women or offspring of residents, please refer to the DHP Circular No.24/2020</p>



<b>Competency validation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Passing the DHP licensing examination (if applicable), unless exempted, please refer to Circular No.24/2020, and the qualifying examination policy at the following link: <a href="https://dhportal.moph.gov.qa/en_layouts/15LogIn.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f_layouts%2fAuthenticate.aspx%3fSource=%2fen%2FPages%2Fdefault%2Easpx">https://dhportal.moph.gov.qa/en_layouts/15LogIn.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f_layouts%2fAuthenticate.aspx%3fSource=%2fen%2FPages%2Fdefault%2Easpx</a></li><li>• Verification of the educational qualifications and relevant graduate clinical experience.</li></ul>
<b>Others Requirement for Evaluation &amp; Registration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>(Refer to the DHP requirements for license Registration/Evaluation)</i> <a href="https://dhp.moph.gov.qa/en/Pages/HowToRegisterToPracticeInQatar.aspx">https://dhp.moph.gov.qa/en/Pages/HowToRegisterToPracticeInQatar.aspx</a></li></ul>
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