

POLICY REGARDING THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

Preamble: The purpose of this policy is to clarify the Ohio State Dental Board's (Board) position regarding the scope of practice of oral and maxillofacial surgery in the state of Ohio.

The Dental Practice Act defines dentistry as the diagnosis and treatment of diseases or lesions of human teeth or jaws, or associated structures; attempting to correct malpositions thereof, taking impressions of the human teeth or jaws, or constructing, supplying, reproducing or repairing any prosthetic denture, bridge, artificial restoration, appliance or other structure to be used or worn as a substitute for natural teeth (see ORC 4715.01). This definition has not been updated since 1982.

The American Dental Association (ADA) defines dentistry simply 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 dentist, within the scope of his/her education, training and experience, in accordance with the ethics of the profession and applicable law. (1997).

The ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure defines the recognized specialties of dentistry. The specialty of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is defined as the specialty of dentistry which includes the diagnosis, surgical and adjunctive treatment of disease, injuries and defects involving both the functional and esthetic aspects of the hard and soft tissues of the oral and maxillofacial region.

The Dental Practice Act recognizes and accepts the ADA definitions as they relate to the nine (9) accepted dental specialty areas (see OAC 4715-5-04).

The Board is routinely called upon to make determinations as to what is included in the scope of practice of dentistry, and what acts or omissions qualify as not meeting the accepted standards of care for the profession.

Policy, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

May 16, 2007

Page 2

Over the past several years the Board has considered many questions as to what constitutes the scope of practice of oral and maxillofacial surgery.

It is the position of the Board that dentists who provide oral and maxillofacial services can diagnose and treat all conditions of the hard and soft tissues of the oral and maxillofacial region, and/or adjacent and associated structures. There are limitations based on the specific education and training received by the dentist providing these services. This insures an adequate diagnosis will be made and an ability to recognize and treat complications. The education and training required is to be equal to that provided by ADA accredited programs within the dental schools and residency programs. This is the basis for determining the scope of practice for dentists.

It is important to keep in mind that this policy deals with an important, ever evolving area of practice. Please direct all questions regarding this subject to the Board office

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