



## VELFERÐARRÁÐUNEYTIÐ

*Ministry of Welfare*

### **REGULATION** **on the education, rights and obligations of dentists** **and criteria for granting of licences and specialist licences,** **No. 1121/2012.**

#### SECTION I **General provisions.**

##### Article 1

###### *Scope.*

This Regulation applies to dentists holding licences and specialist licences from the Medical Director of Health under Articles 2 and 5.

#### SECTION II

##### **Licences.**

##### Article 2

###### *Professional title.*

The right to use the professional title of dentist and to practise as such in Iceland is confined to those who have been granted a licence by the Medical Director of Health.

##### Article 3

###### *Criteria for granting of a licence.*

A licence under Article 2 may be granted to those who have completed a Candidatus degree in odontology (Cand. Odont.) from the Faculty of Odontology in the University of Iceland's School of Health Sciences.

A licence from a state within the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland may also be granted on the basis of education from the aforementioned states. Recognition of professional qualifications and competence of a dentist who meets the criteria of Directive 2005/36/EC, on the recognition of professional qualifications, with subsequent amendments, is subject to Regulation on recognition of professional qualifications and competence of healthcare practitioners from other EEA states, No. 461/2011, or to Nordic Convention on a common Nordic labour market for certain health professionals and veterinarians, No. 36/1993 (*cf.* Amendment No. 6/2001).

A specialist licence may also be granted to those who have completed a comparable qualification from an educational institution in a state outside the EEA or Switzerland, which is recognised as such by Icelandic health authorities, and by health authorities in the state where the education took place.

Other criteria for the issue of a licence are subject to Article 13.

##### Article 4

###### *Opinions.*

Before a licence is granted under Article 2 on the basis of education outside Iceland under the third paragraph of Article 3, the Medical Director of Health shall elicit the opinion of the Faculty of Odontology of the University of Iceland's School of Health Sciences, with regard to whether the applicant fulfils the criteria for education under the first paragraph of Article 3, for granting of a licence.

The Medical Director of Health may elicit opinions from other bodies, as deemed necessary.

SECTION III  
**Specialist licences.**

Article 5

*Specialist licences.*

The right to use the title of specialist in dentistry and to practise as such in Iceland is confined to those granted a licence by the Medical Director of Health.

Article 6

*Criteria for specialist licences.*

Specialist licences may be granted in public health dentistry and in specialist clinical fields of dentistry. This is subject to the criterion that the specialist training of the applicant is defined as being within the specialist field for which he/she applies for a specialist licence. The relevant specialty shall have a solid theoretical basis, and an equivalent shall exist in a recognised international forum.

A specialist clinical field refers to a field which involves working with patients directly, as well as prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

Specialist training in dentistry shall be no less than three years.

In order to be entitled to receive a specialist licence under Article 5 a dentist shall fulfil the following standards:

1. he/she shall be licensed as a dentist in Iceland under Article 2; and
2. he/she shall have completed a defined specialist university course, completed theoretical and clinical studies and shall meet the requirements of that university, which is recognised by Icelandic health authorities and the health authorities of the state where the education took place; and
3. he/she shall submit a dissertation on a subject pertaining to his/her specialist field, demonstrating knowledge of scientific methodologies and ability to use academic publications.

An applicant for a specialist licence in a specialist clinical field shall submit six medical records for cases he himself/she herself has worked on, demonstrating the widest knowledge of resolving clinical problems. The medical records should be supported by all the relevant documents necessary for the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of the relevant problems or disease.

An applicant for a specialist licence in public health dentistry shall submit two scholarly papers published by a recognised specialist publication, or have completed a master's degree or doctorate in public health dentistry.

A specialist licence from a state within the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland may also be confirmed, or a licence granted on the basis of education from the aforementioned states. Recognition of professional qualifications and competence of a dentist who meets the criteria of Directive 2005/36/EC, on the recognition of professional qualifications, with subsequent amendments, is subject to Regulation on recognition of professional qualifications and competence of healthcare practitioners from other EEA states, No. 461/2011, or to Nordic Convention on a common Nordic labour market for certain health professionals and veterinarians, No. 36/1993 (*cf.* Amendment No. 6/2001).

A specialist licence may also be granted to those who have completed a comparable qualification from an educational institution in a state outside the EEA or Switzerland, which is recognised as such by Icelandic health authorities, and by health authorities in the state where the training took place.

Further criteria for the granting of a specialist licence are subject to Article 13.

Article 7

*Specialist fields.*

Specialist licences in dentistry may be granted in the following fields:

1. Paedodontics.
2. Occlusion dentistry.
3. Oral medicine.
4. Oral and maxillofacial radiology.
5. Oral and maxillofacial surgery.

6. Public health dentistry.
7. Prosthodontics.
8. Operative dentistry and cariology.
9. Periodontics.
10. Endodontics.
11. Orthodontics.
12. Geriatric dentistry.

A dentist may be granted specialist licences in a maximum of two specialist fields, provided that he/she meets the requirements listed in Article 6 in each field individually.

A specific field on which the person has focussed within the clinical speciality may be specified.

#### Article 8

##### *Application and opinions.*

An application for a specialist licence in dentistry, together with documents confirming education and professional experience, and other necessary documents, shall be submitted to the Medical Director of Health.

Before a specialist licence is granted under Article 5 on the basis of education in another state, the Medical Director of Health shall elicit the opinion of the Faculty of Odontology in the University of Iceland's School of Health Sciences with regard to whether the applicant fulfils the criteria of Article 6 to be granted a specialist licence.

The Medical Director of Health may appoint a special committee to evaluate and comment upon applications for specialist licences in dentistry.

The Medical Director of Health may elicit opinions from other bodies, as deemed necessary.

#### SECTION IV

#### **Rights and obligations.**

#### Article 9

##### *Professional standards and responsibility.*

A dentist shall show respect for the patient and perform his/her tasks vigilantly and conscientiously and in accordance with the professional standards required of the profession at any time.

A dentist must be aware of his/her duties and respect ethical rules of the profession, maintain his/her knowledge and professional skill, and master innovations in his/her field of work.

A dentist shall be familiar with legislation and regulations applying to healthcare practitioners and healthcare services, and other legislation and government directives, as applicable.

A dentist is responsible for the dental diagnosis and treatment he/she provides.

A dentist shall recognise his/her professional limitations, and seek assistance or refer the patient to another healthcare practitioner as necessary, for instance if he/she judges that he/she cannot provide the patient with appropriate healthcare service.

#### Article 10

##### *Duty to inform and keeping of medical records.*

The duty of a dentist to provide information to a patient is subject to the provisions of the Patients' Rights Act, No. 74/1997.

The duty of a dentist to provide information to the Medical Director of Health, *inter alia* with respect to monitoring and for the purpose of producing health reports, is subject to the provisions of the Medical Director of Health and Public Health Act, No. 41/2007.

A dentist shall, as appropriate, enter medical records in accordance with the provisions of the Medical Records Act, No. 55/2009, and regulations issued on the basis of the Act.

#### Article 11

##### *Assistants and trainees.*

A dentist is responsible for assistants and trainees working under his/her management having sufficient competence and knowledge, and receiving the necessary guidance and instructions, to carry out tasks which he/she allots to them.

Article 12  
*Confidentiality.*

A dentist shall maintain the utmost confidentiality regarding anything of which he/she becomes aware in his/her work about a patient's health, condition, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment, and other personal information. This does not apply where other provisions are made by law, or where reasonable cause exists to breach confidentiality for reasons of urgent necessity.

A dentist can be released from the obligation of confidentiality by the consent of a patient, or guardian if applicable.

The duty of confidentiality under this Article does not apply to cases in which the dentist has a duty to report under other legal provisions. In such cases, the duty of the dentist is to notify the relevant authority.

A dentist's duty of confidentiality is also subject to the provisions of the Patients' Rights Act, the Medical Records Act and other legislation as applicable.

SECTION V  
**Various provisions.**

Article 13

*Further criteria for granting of licences and specialist licences.*

An applicant for a licence as a dentist under Article 2 and a specialist licence in dentistry under Article 5 who is from a state outside the EEA and Switzerland, with which Iceland has not made an agreement on recognition of professional qualifications and competence, shall submit *inter alia* documentary evidence of nationality, content and duration of education, in addition to an examination certificate, a licence if the profession is an authorised profession in the applicant's state of origin, intended employment in Iceland, and any other documents and certificates deemed by the Medical Director of Health to be necessary for the issue of a licence.

Before an application for a licence is evaluated, a certified copy of an application for residence and work permits must be submitted, together with a signed contract of employment.

A requirement may be made for knowledge of the Icelandic language and Icelandic healthcare legislation, as well as other legislation and government directives, as deemed necessary in the work of a dentist and specialist dentist, especially with regard to patients' safety and communication with patients.

Should it not have been demonstrated, in the judgement of the Medical Director of Health, that the applicant's qualification fulfils the criteria under the first paragraph of Article 3 or Article 6, an applicant may be required to submit to a test of competence, both theoretical and practical, to demonstrate that he/she possesses the professional knowledge and competence required in a dentist, or a dentist holding a specialist licence. An appropriate educational institution shall organise the test in consultation with the Medical Director of Health.

Licences and specialist licences are issued when the applicant commences work in Iceland.

Article 14  
*Prescriptions.*

The prescriptions of dentists are subject to the Pharmaceuticals Act and regulations issued on the basis of the Act.

Article 15  
*Fees.*

Fees for the issue of a licence or specialist licence are subject to Article 10 of the Treasury Supplementary Revenues Act, No. 88/1991.

Fees for all administration undertaken by the Medical Director of Health with regard to applications for licences and specialist licences, in addition to the fee under the first paragraph, and for tests of professional knowledge and competence, are subject to Regulation on fees for applications for healthcare practitioners' licences and specialist licences, No. 951/2012.

Article 16

*General provisions.*

The provisions of the Healthcare Practitioners Act, No. 34/2012, the Medical Director of Health and Public Health Act, No. 41/2007, the Medical Records Act, No. 55/2009, the Health Service Act, No. 40/2007, the Patients' Rights Act, No. 74/1997, and other legislation and government directives apply to dentists as applicable.

Article 17

*Entry into force.*

This Regulation, issued on the basis of Articles 5, 8, 30 and 31 of the Healthcare Practitioners Act, No. 34/2012, takes effect on 1 January 2013. From that time Regulation on the granting of specialist licences in dentistry, No. 545/2007, with subsequent amendments, is abrogated.

**Temporary provision.**

A dentist who has commenced specialist training under Regulation on Dentists' Specialist Licence, No. 545/2007, when this Regulation takes effect, may arrange his/her studies according to the provisions of that Regulation. Those commencing specialist training after this Regulation takes effect shall arrange their studies in accordance with the new Regulation.

*Ministry of Welfare, 11 December 2012.*

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