

**ASEAN Minimum Common Competency Standards
for Dental Undergraduate Education**

The competencies below refer to general dental practice and include the management¹ of patients of all ages including those with special needs (e.g. patients who are physically and/or intellectually challenged or who may have complex medical conditions which may make oral health care more complex).

Competency Statement	Scope of Performing Abilities
1. Demonstrate ethical and professional behaviors which are in accordance with the local codes of conduct for dental professionals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Maintain patient's confidentiality
2. Provide dental care in compliance with the principles of ethics and jurisprudence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Recognise the local legal aspects of dental practice and comply with the laws related to it▪ Recognize negligence and malpractice and respond appropriately▪ Obtain informed consent▪ Deliver dental care to patients based on their treatment needs ethically and professionally
3. Recognize patients' rights, demonstrate appropriate care, and respect patients and colleagues without discrimination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Demonstrate humane and compassionate care and respects for patient's rights.▪ Demonstrate sensitivity toward patient's culture, gender, values, beliefs, and preferences in delivery of dental care
4. Practice within one's competence and know when to consult and/or refer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The same as Major Competency

¹ "Management" of the oral health care needs of a patient includes all actions performed by practitioners within their areas of education, training and experience that are designed to alter the course of a patient's condition. Such actions may include providing education, advice, diagnosis, treatment by the practitioner, treatment by the practitioner after consultation with another dental/health care professional, referral of a patient to another dental/health care professional, monitoring treatment provided and evaluating oral health outcomes; it may also include observation or providing no treatment. "Manage" assumes the use of appropriate diagnostic processes and planning (*modified from the Australian Dental Council*).

Competency Statement	Scope of Performing Abilities
5. Communicate effectively with patients and their caregivers, colleagues, and the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communicate verbally, non-verbally, and in writing effectively ▪ Demonstrate effective inter-professional communication ▪ Demonstrate professionalism in communicating professional views to promote oral health
6. Critically evaluate and apply best up-to-date research evidence in managing oral health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be able to source, critically appraise scientific literature, and apply the evidence appropriately in the delivery of dental care
7. Apply knowledge of the scientific basis of dentistry, including the relevant biomedical and psychosocial sciences, to the practice of dentistry in compliance with the correct academic principles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The same as Major Competency
8. Display commitment to lifelong learning for professional development and maintain high quality care for the patients and community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engage in reflective practice ▪ Seek new knowledge and skills in solving problems and/or improving professional capabilities
9. Lead and/or participate with oral and/or other health care team in dental and general health promotion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The same as Major Competency ▪ Dental healthcare team ▪ General healthcare team
10. Manage and maintain a safe working environment including patient safety and effective cross infection control.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prescribe appropriate drugs as a part of dental care ▪ Practise patient safety in the delivery of dental care in accordance with the local and/or international guidelines/regulations ▪ Practise and monitor infection control and environmental safety in accordance with the local and/or international guidelines/regulations ▪ Use clinical equipment and facilities safely and proficiently

Competency Statement	Scope of Performing Abilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recognise and manage risks to maintain a safe working environment ▪ Manage and prepare essential medical equipment and drugs to be ready for use at the time required ▪ Develop basic action plan for dental teams to manage medical emergencies
<p>11. Organize and manage dental practice office/clinic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organise roles, responsibilities, and training of dental personnel in the dental office ▪ Use Information Technology appropriately regarding patient care and practice management ▪ Implement and monitor protocols which are in accordance and compliance with the local and/or international guidelines/regulations ▪ Implement regular reviews and quality improvement protocols
<p>12. Identify patient's chief complaints and obtain complete medical, dental and psychosocial history.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elicit patient's chief complaints and expectations ▪ Take an accurate medical, dental, social and occupational history ▪ Evaluate patient's attitudes, mental, emotional, and social state
<p>13. Perform appropriate clinical examination, necessary diagnostic tests, and radiographic examination/investigation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assess vital signs as needed ▪ Perform comprehensive oral examination ▪ Obtain relevant information from clinical examination ▪ Perform relevant diagnostic tests and radiographic examinations ▪ Evaluate patient risk factors related to oral diseases
<p>14. Obtain and interpret all findings in order to arrive at an accurate diagnosis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Record, interpret and correlate all findings accurately to achieve differential/definitive diagnosis ▪ Determine clinical significance of the findings e.g. how systemic diseases and its management might alter dental care

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15. Formulate appropriate initial/provisional, differential and final diagnoses based on the interpretation of the clinical, laboratory and radiographic findings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish provisional/differential diagnoses ▪ Establish definitive/final diagnoses when possible
16. Keep accurate, systematic and current patient medical/dental records in compliance with international standards and local data protection regulation/legislation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain record of patient in compliance with international standards and local data protection regulation/legislation
17. Formulate a comprehensive treatment and/or referral plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide comprehensive evidence-based treatment plan and/or referral plan ▪ Prescribe appropriate drugs in accordance with the patient's oral health problems
18. Apply a patient-centered approach to adjust treatment plans to suit patients' needs and values according to standards of care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Explain and discuss with patients (and/or their guardians or caregivers) about findings, diagnoses, treatment options and decisions (including financial obligation) ▪ Demonstrate that treatment decisions focus on patient's needs, values and abilities
19. Recognize and manage medical and dental emergencies and perform basic life support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recognise patient's signs and symptoms of medical emergencies ▪ Perform basic life support/CPR ▪ Support and monitor patient vital functions ▪ Recognise and manage dental emergencies
20. Manage patient's pain and anxiety by using both pharmacological and non-pharmacological techniques.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Administer local anaesthesia including local infiltration and block injection correctly and adequately ▪ Build rapport and trust for effective dentist-patient relationship ▪ Perform behavioural management techniques to manage pain and anxiety of the patients
21. Manage carious and non-carious lesions, and provide treatment when indicated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Perform caries risk assessment and caries control

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restore uncomplicated carious and non-carious lesions using direct restoration and refer complex cases appropriately ▪ Perform preventive procedures (e.g. PFS, PRR, Topical Fluoride) ▪ Educate patient concerning the aetiology and prevention of caries ▪ Perform simple aesthetic restoration ▪ Manage indirect restoration of carious and non-carious lesions and refer appropriately ▪ Recognise and manage complicated carious and non-carious lesions and refer appropriately
<p>22. Manage pulpal and periapical diseases and perform non-surgical root canal treatment on uncomplicated single and multi-rooted teeth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Perform relevant therapy to maintain vitality of the pulp ▪ Perform non-surgical root canal treatment on uncomplicated single- and/or multi-rooted teeth ▪ Manage post-endodontic restoration [Restore post-endodontically treated teeth] ▪ Manage non-vital bleaching ▪ Manage emergency endodontic treatment for the relief of pre-operative, inter-appointment, and post-operative symptoms ▪ Manage traumatic injuries of the tooth, dental pulp, and supporting tissues ▪ Recognise and manage complicated cases, explain and discuss with patients and refer appropriately
<p>23. Manage periodontal conditions and diseases and provide non-surgical periodontal treatment when indicated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Perform periodontal assessment ▪ Provide oral hygiene instruction ▪ Educate patient concerning the aetiology and prevention of periodontal diseases ▪ Perform supragingival and subgingival scaling and non-surgical root planing ▪ Provide maintenance programme ▪ Manage localised predisposing factors e.g. premature contact, poor contact

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Manage acute and chronic periodontal infections ▪ Explain and discuss with patients who need periodontal surgery and refer appropriately
<p>24. Manage oral surgery treatment needs and perform minor oral surgical procedures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Administer local anaesthesia ▪ Perform simple extraction ▪ Perform uncomplicated minor oral surgery ▪ Apply and/or prescribe appropriate pharmaceutical agents to support the treatment ▪ Provide post-operative instructions and care ▪ Manage odontogenic infections, common surgical complications, and soft tissue biopsy ▪ Manage manual reposition the TMJ ▪ Explain and discuss with patients regarding complicated maxillo-facial procedures and refer appropriately
<p>25. Recognize and manage common oral mucosal lesions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recognise and manage common oral mucosal lesions ▪ Recognise and manage oral manifestations of systemic diseases ▪ Recognise and manage potentially malignant disorders and oral cancers
<p>26. Manage patients with prosthodontic treatment needs, and provide suitable removable and/or fixed prostheses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fabricate and place provisional prostheses ▪ Perform uncomplicated removable partial and full/complete denture ▪ Perform single crown restoration ▪ Perform uncomplicated post-core and crown restoration ▪ Write laboratory prescription and evaluate laboratory procedures ▪ Provide care and maintenance of prostheses ▪ Manage uncomplicated fixed partial denture (up to 3 units of bridges) ▪ Explain and discuss with patients requiring complicated prosthodontic treatments and refer appropriately

Competency Statement	Scope of Performing Abilities
27. Manage patients with simple malocclusion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Perform case analysis using study model and cephalometric radiograph ▪ Perform/Manage teeth movement with simple orthodontic appliance (depending on the scope of undergraduate curriculum) ▪ Explain and discuss with patients about malocclusion and their orthodontic management
28. Manage patients with masticatory disorders/ diseases and/or orofacial pain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Manage simple occlusal therapy where appropriate (e.g. occlusal splint, occlusal adjustment) ▪ Recognise and manage parafunctional habits ▪ Recognise and manage orofacial pain and TMDs
29. Recognize and manage patients with special needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Manage uncooperative patients ▪ Manage medically compromised patients ▪ Manage patients with physical and behavioural needs. ▪ Manage the simple oral healthcare needs of cleft lip/palate patients
30. Recognize indication of patient suitable for implant treatment and its complications, and make appropriate referral.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Explain, discuss, and manage patients regarding dental implant and refer appropriately
31. Monitor and evaluate treatment outcomes and provide additional action as necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Perform periodic follow-up and recall ▪ Modify or review treatment plan when necessary and provide appropriate treatment or management accordingly
32. Use the concepts of holistic healthcare, health promotion, disease prevention, and public health management to educate and promote oral health of the individuals and the community, and be able to evaluate results.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Apply principles of oral health promotion and prevention at individual, family, and community levels ▪ Recognise relationships between social determinants with health and illness of the society ▪ Formulate implement and evaluate oral health intervention in community setting

Competency Statement	Scope of Performing Abilities
33. Recognize the oral health status and importance of the health service systems in a culturally diverse society in order to take proper roles and responsibilities within the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Recognise and be familiar with health services system in the respective country▪ Provide professional input to government and non-government agencies

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Glossary of Terms

Terms	Definition
TASKS (in ascending order of the level of performing abilities)	
Recognise	To identify a condition, issue or incident and its impact on the patient.
Explain and discuss	A use of communication between the practitioner and patients and/or caregivers to ensure mutual understanding of patient's needs, treatment options (including risks, benefits, and costs), expectations as a part of holistic dental care
Educate	A use of discussion and other interpersonal skills to disseminate knowledge and make relatively permanent change in the behaviours and attitudes of patients and employees.
Manage	To “manage” the oral health care needs of a patient includes all actions performed by practitioners within their areas of education, training and experience that are designed to alter the course of a patient's condition. Such actions may include providing education, advice, diagnosis, treatment by the practitioner, treatment by the practitioner after consultation with another dental/health care professional, referral of a patient to another dental/health care professional, monitoring treatment provided and evaluating oral health outcomes; it may also include observation or providing no treatment. “Manage” assumes the use of appropriate diagnostic processes and planning (<i>modified from the Australian Dental Council</i>)
Perform	Carrying out a procedure with reasonable speed and without negative unforeseen consequences. The procedure that is undertaken is consistent with the prevailing standard of care and that the practitioners accurately evaluate the results and take any necessary corrective action.
Reflective Practice	This is a means by which practitioners can develop a greater self-awareness about the nature and impact of their performance. This creates opportunities for professional growth and development. (<i>COPDEND-UK</i>)

Terms	Definition
OUTCOMES	
Effective dentist-patient relationship	The range of professional interactions between the dentist and patient/caregiver to facilitate a clear and effective exchange of information for the patient/caregiver to engage in informed shared decision making and facilitate behavioural change. Such interactions should be characterised by mutual respect, professionalism and trust.
Effective inter-professional communication	The communication between healthcare professionals, not limited to dentistry, to facilitate the holistic and comprehensive care of patients. Such communication should be characterised by mutual respect, professionalism and trust.
COMPLEXITY	
Complex/ Complicated	Complex/complicated procedures refer to those which practitioners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. may require additional guidance and assistance from more senior colleagues or b. may not be able to carry out due to a lack of knowledge experience or skill and hence will be better managed by a specialist c. may not be able to carry out due to patient, biological or any other factors which make such procedures challenging to perform.
Simple Orthodontic Appliance	Minimally, refers to a removable appliance used to correct simple malocclusions.
Simple Tooth Extraction	A tooth removal procedure that can be accomplished from above the gums using traditional elevator and forcep instruments. It is a process of removing teeth without the need of surgical techniques.

Terms	Definition
TERMINOLOGY	
Professionalism	Professionalism is a generic concept that generally denotes a set of values comprising statutory professional obligations, formally agreed codes of (professional) conduct, and the informal expectations of patients, colleagues and the wider society in which the professional works. Key values include acting in the patients' best interest and maintaining the standards of competence and knowledge expected of the dental profession. These standards will include moral/ethical elements or principles such as integrity, probity, accountability, duty and honour. In addition to medical/dental knowledge and skills, dental professionals should present psychosocial and humanistic qualities such as caring, empathy, humility and compassion, social responsibility and sensitivity to people's culture and beliefs. (<i>modified from COPDEND-UK</i>)
Special needs	Refers to patients who require a tailored approach to oral health management based on their individual needs due to a variety of medical conditions or physical and mental limitations that require more than routine delivery of oral care; special care encompasses preventive, diagnostic, and treatment services. (<i>modified from ADEA Competencies for the New General Dentist</i>)