

February 2011

REGULATIONS

FOR ADMISSION TO THE DIPLOMA IN DENTISTRY OF THE COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY OF SOUTH AFRICA

Dip Dent(SA)

1.0 MOTIVATION

The Diploma in Dentistry is intended as the means whereby a general practitioner of dentistry can obtain a diploma in a field of dentistry of special interest to herself or himself, without the restrictions generally imposed by diploma regulations which confine the qualification to certain prescribed subjects or combinations of subjects.

2.0 EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL AIMS

- 2.1 The Diploma in Dentistry may be taken in any legitimate field of dentistry elected by the prospective candidate (eg endodontics, oral and maxillo-facial radiology, aesthetic dentistry, prosthetic dental implantology, partial denture prosthetics, oral medicine, periodontics, restorative dentistry, paedodontics, etc).
- 2.2 The educational aim of the Diploma in Dentistry is to encourage general practitioners of dentistry to formalise and systematise their knowledge of the field of practice in which they have a special interest, with a view to delivering superior professional service and at the same time gaining greater professional self-satisfaction.
- 2.3 By allowing the prospective candidate for the diploma to elect whatever field of dentistry is of particular interest to him/her as the substance of his/her diploma examination, the spread of potentially improved professional services to the community is widened.

3.0 TARGET GROUP FOR THE DIPLOMA

- 3.1 The diploma is intended primarily for dental general practitioners; but applications will be accepted from dental specialists who may wish to improve their knowledge in fields of dentistry closely associated with their specialities.
- 3.2 Applications from dental specialists to choose fields within their own specialities will not be accepted.

4.0 CHOICE OF SUBJECT FOR THE EXAMINATION

- 4.1 The prospective candidate must submit his/her choice of subject or field of practice for approval at least one month before the closing date for applications to enter the examination. The decision of the President and one other member of the Council of the College of Dentistry as to the acceptability of the chosen subject or field will be final.

5.0 ADMISSION TO THE EXAMINATION

(to be read in conjunction with the Instructions)

- 5.1 The candidate must for six months have held a qualification to practise dentistry, which is registered or registrable with the Health Professions Council of South Africa.
- 5.2 The CMSA Senate, through its Examinations and Credentials Committee, will review all applications for admission to the examination and may also review the professional and ethical standing of candidates.
- 5.3 When applying to enter the examination, the candidate must produce evidence of experience and/or education and/or training in the chosen subject or field, as set out in paragraph 6, below.

6.0 EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- 6.1 One of the following will be acceptable as evidence of appropriate experience, education and training in the chosen subject or field of practice:

- 6.1.1 an affidavit attesting to the fact that the candidate has for at least 4 years, and devoting to it at least 20% of his/her time, practised and had a special interest in the chosen subject or field. This must be supported by affidavits on their practice letterheads from two colleagues who can attest to the fact that the candidate is known to have a special interest in and regularly to practise the chosen discipline.
- 6.1.2 certified evidence of full-time training in, or full-time participation in teaching of the chosen subject/field at a teaching or CMSA-approved institution for at least six months.
- 6.1.3 a logbook, prepared according to the format in the annexure hereto, substantiating experience, education and training claimed in the chosen subject/field, to the value of 1000 credit points, accumulated within not more than 5 years preceding the examination.

The 1000 credit points to be recorded in the logbook may be obtained as any combination of the following, with the proviso that theoretical education (paragraphs 6.1.3.3 to 6.1.3.6) in the chosen subject/field must constitute a minimum of 150 credit points, and may not exceed 300 credit points.

- 6.1.3.1 certified evidence of part-time clinical training in, or part-time participation in clinical teaching of the chosen subject/field at a teaching or CMSA-approved institution, at the rate of 1 (one) credit point per hour. (For credit points in this category, in addition to signing appropriate entries in the logbook, the senior person in the training institution / department should be asked to provide a letter detailing the training / teaching experience in hours)
- 6.1.3.2 General dental practice which embraces the chosen subject/field but for less than 20% of the practitioner's time, at the rate of 0.125 credit point per hour in general practice, to a maximum of 750 credit points. Each completed *month* of *full-time* practice will count as 170 hours, or 21.25 credit points (170 x 0.125).
Hours of practice claimed must be entered in the logbook to be certified by affidavit, and supported by letters on their letterheads signed by two colleagues who can attest to the time (credit points) claimed.
- 6.1.3.3 Formal courses, conferences or lectures in the chosen subject/field at the rate of 5 (five) credit points per hour.

- 6.1.3.4 Formal consultations with a registered specialist whose speciality embraces the chosen subject/field, at the rate of 5 (five) credit points per hour.
 - 6.1.3.5 Any other theoretical education in the chosen subject/field offered, will be evaluated by the CMSA for acceptability, at the maximum rate of 5 (five) points per hour
 - 6.1.3.6 Full publications in the chosen subject/field in reputable journals, at 50 credit points per publication to a maximum of 100 credit points.
- NOTE:** CPD in the chosen subject/field may of course be offered for the appropriate number of credit points, provided it is properly certified in the logbook.

7.0 SYLLABUS AND PREPARATION FOR THE EXAMINATION

- 7.1 It will be clear to the candidate that as she/he chooses the subject or field in which she/he wishes to be examined, it is not possible to provide syllabi or even guidelines to prepare for the examination.

8.0 EXAMINATION STRUCTURE AND OBJECTIVES

- 8.1 The examination in the chosen subject/field will seek to determine whether the candidate has applied herself/himself to the acquisition of knowledge of and skills in the chosen subject/field at a substantially higher level than that usual to general practitioners; but not at what may be regarded as specialist level.
- 8.2 The examination will comprise the following:
 - 8.2.1 A written examination of two three-hour papers, which may include sections of essay-type answers, short answers, multiple choice answers, or any format selected by the examiners on a particular occasion, but not consist entirely of any one of the above.
However:
 - 8.2.1.1 Paper I will deal mainly with theoretical considerations
 - 8.2.1.2 Paper II will deal mainly with clinical considerations
 - 8.2.2 A clinical examination which may include examination and evaluation of at least two patients of advanced difficulty, and/or an objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) of at least 60 minutes, and/or written or oral comment on relevant clinical material of at least two cases of advanced difficulty.
 - 8.2.3 A viva voce examination
- 8.3 The objectives of the components of the examination will be:
 - 8.3.1 *The written paper* : to determine the candidate's knowledge and understanding of his/her chosen subject/field in its theoretical and clinical complexities, and to determine his/her ability to present his/her knowledge in a clear, logical, concise and reasoned exposition on the topics selected by the examiners.
 - 8.3.2 *The clinical/OSCE/case commentaries*: to determine the candidate's ability to recognise, analyse, and mentally organise an appropriate clinical response to, or make a treatment plan for previously unseen clinical cases/material.
 - 8.3.3 *The viva voce examination*: to test the candidate's knowledge of material not covered in the other parts of the examination, to examine in greater depth topics dealt with in other parts of the examination, or to probe deficiencies in knowledge or skills exposed during the earlier parts of the examination process.

- 8.4 The examination will be marked in percentages, as is the case for all examinations of the CMSA, 50% is a pass

A fail symbol in any one of the three components, or between 45% and 49% in any two components of the examination will fail the candidate.

9.0 NAME AND STYLE OF THE QUALIFICATION

- 9.1 The name of the qualification is *Diploma in Dentistry of the College of Dentistry of South Africa in XXX* where XXX will be the name of the subject or field chosen by the candidate.

- 9.2 The abbreviation of the name of the qualification will be *Dip Dent (SA)(XXX)* where XXX will be an abbreviation of not exceeding five letters, for the name of the subject or field chosen by the candidate.

- 9.3 Successful candidates are earnestly cautioned against making themselves out to be, or allowing themselves to be made out to be specialists in the chosen subject or field of practice, as a result of having been awarded the Diploma.

10.0 ADMISSION AS A DIPLOMATE

10.1 The candidate having passed the examination and having been admitted as a Diplomat of the College of Dentistry of South Africa, will be asked to sign a declaration, as under:

I, the undersigned, do solemnly and sincerely declare

that while a member of the CMSA I will at all times do all within my power to promote the objects of the CMSA and uphold the dignity of the CMSA and its members

that I will observe the provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, By-laws, Regulations and Code of Ethics of the CMSA as in force from time to time

that I will obey every lawful summons issued by order of the Senate of the said CMSA, having no reasonable excuse to the contrary

and I make this solemn declaration faithfully promising to adhere to its terms

Signed at this day of 20

Signature

Witness

(who must be a Founder, Associate Founder, Fellow, Member, Diplomat or Commissioner of Oaths)

10.2 A two-thirds majority of members of the CMSA Senate present at the relevant meeting shall be necessary for the award to any candidate of a Diploma

10.3 A Diplomat shall be entitled to the appropriate form of certificate under the seal of the CMSA

10.4 Successful candidates are earnestly cautioned against making themselves out to be, or allowing themselves to be made out to be specialists in the chosen subject or field of practice, as a result of having been awarded the Diploma

10.5 In the event of a candidate not being awarded the Diploma (after having passed the examination) the examination fee shall be refunded in full

11.0 CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP OF THE COLLEGES OF MEDICINE OF SOUTH AFRICA/COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY OF SOUTH AFRICA

11.1 There is an annual subscription for membership of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa, of which the College of Dentistry of South Africa is a constituent College

11.2 The first annual subscription is due one year after registration as a diplomat. Statements are rendered annually

11.3 Diplomates are earnestly requested to maintain their privileges of membership and to support the ever-increasing work of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa by paying the annual subscription

ANNEXURE A – Dip Dent(SA)

1.0 Format and use of the Logbook

- 1.1 The logbook required in terms of paragraph 6.1.3 of the Regulations for the Dip Dent(SA) must be prepared by the candidate himself/herself. An A4 sheet properly formatted is attached hereto, and this sheet should be photocopied and the copies stapled or bound together into logbook form, with a cover and first page as specified below.
- 1.2 The cover of the logbook should be marked:

College of Dentistry of South Africa LOGBOOK FOR DIP DENT(SA) YOUR INITIALS AND SURNAME

- 1.3 The last page of the logbook must carry the following, and immediately before submission of your application to enter the examination, must be signed by you and be certified by a Commissioner of Oaths:

This affidavit is to certify that the entries in this logbook are a true and accurate record of prescribed requirements in terms of paragraph 6.1.3 of the Regulations for the Diploma in Dentistry of the College of Dentistry of South Africa

All the entries herein have been certified (signed) by the person providing the clinical training / giving the lecture/s / organising the courses, etc, as the case may be, those persons having been informed of the purpose of the logbook.

Signed *Date*

- 1.4 For credit points claimed in the log book in terms of paragraph 6.1.3.2 of the regulations (general practice experience) the claim must be shown as an entry in your logbook, and must be signed by two colleagues who can attest to the fact that you were indeed in general practice for the period claimed by the inclusive dates.

