

Dental Board of Queensland

Guidelines on use of Soft Tissue Cosmetic Injections by Dental Practitioners

Background:

The Dental Board of Queensland (“the Board”) is responsible under the *Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001* (“the Act”) to protect the public by ensuring health care is delivered by registrants in a professional safe and competent way.

There has been growing interest by dental practitioners in the use of materials for facial volume augmentation and neuro-toxic agents around the mouth as a component of an overall treatment plan developed by the dental practitioner to complement other aesthetic dental procedures. Generally these soft tissue cosmetic injections would be undertaken by appropriately trained medical practitioners.

The treatments have varying safety profiles. They are not currently taught in undergraduate dental programmes. Accordingly they are not regarded as part of the historical scope of the professional practice of dentistry. They may however be reasonably considered a part of the practice of the speciality of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery where those practitioners have the appropriate training and skills to use the relevant procedures.

Dental Practitioners must only use restricted drugs in accordance with the requirements of the *Health (Drugs & Poisons) Regulation 1996*. The local anesthesia aspects of soft tissue cosmetic injections are not dissimilar from those associated with other surgical procedures.

Guidelines:

Dentists and Dental Specialists may use materials for facial volume augmentation and neuro-toxic agents around the mouth, only if they have the appropriate training and skills in the use of those materials that would be expected of Medical Practitioners fully trained in those procedures.

References:

Dental Practitioners Registration Act 2001

Section 139A prescribes that:

“(1) A person who is not a general registrant, provisional general registrant or medical practitioner, must not practise dentistry.....

(4) In this section-

dentistry means all or any of the following—

(a) *diagnosis of conditions of the mouth;*

(b) *fitting or intra-oral adjustment for a person of artificial teeth or corrective or restorative dental appliances;*

(c) *performance of exposure prone or irreversible procedures on a person’s teeth, jaw, mouth and associated structures.*

direction means direction by phone or other technology allowing reasonably contemporaneous and continuous oral communication.

exposure prone procedure means—

(a) *a sub-mucosal invasion with a surgical instrument; or*

(b) *a procedure dealing with sharp tissues or bone spicules in a body cavity or site.*

irreversible procedure means a treatment, or series of treatments, that causes a permanent change to the affected hard or soft tissues.”

Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996