Membership grades
South Africa

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Dental Protection

With effect from 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2027

Please select the appropriate membership category for the procedures you carry out from the tables below. Please ensure you are on the correct grade for the amount of hours you work per week.

Grades covering clinical dental practice include routine dental procedures. If you carry out any of the procedures requiring additional protection you should select a grade of membership that reflects your full scope of practice.

PROCEDURES REQUIRING ADDITIONAL PROTECTION: If your clinical practice includes any of the following procedures then you should select a grade from the list that includes protection for these procedures.

MAXILLOFACIAL PROCEDURES – Extra oral procedures to the face, head and neck, excluding any non-surgical cosmetic procedures beyond the oral and peri-oral area;

- Excision of maxilla;
- Hemi-maxillectomy;
- Osteotomies;
- Prosthetic replacement of temporo-mandibular joints including arthroplasty;
- Block dissection of lymph nodes in management of metastatic disease;
- Surgical treatment of thyroid and parathyroid glands;
- Surgery involving the orbital complex;
- Rhinoplasty (other than immediate trauma aftercare);
- Facial cosmetic surgery including face lifts, dermabrasion, otoplasty, blethroplasty and liposuction;
- Sinus lifts (irrespective of the technique used);
- Bone harvesting from anywhere other than mandible or maxilla.

SPECIFIED PROCEDURES:

- Placing of implants in the mandible or maxilla. Includes the use of bone grafts but excludes sinus lifts or bone augmentation which involves the floor of the sinus, or extra-oral bone harvesting (which are classed as maxillofacial procedures);
- Constructing and fitting any kind of implant-supported restoration(s);
- Dento-alveolar surgical procedures, where these procedures occupy more than 50% of the total clinical hours worked.

NOTE

1. If you fit any restorations to an implant, whether you have placed that implant yourself or not, your grade will need to include specified procedures. Procedures involving sinus lifts or bone augmentation which involves the floor of the sinus, or extra-oral bone harvesting, are all regarded as maxillofacial procedures and your membership grade should include maxillofacial procedures.

NON-SURGICAL COSMETIC AND ADJUNCTIVE PROCEDURES (INCLUDES THE USE OF BOTOX AND DERMAL FILLERS)

Current HPCSA Scope Of The Profession Regulations restrict the provision of these procedures to the oral and peri-oral area. Protection therefore applies in accordance with these Regulations and the following restrictions;

- Techniques used only after appropriate training has been undertaken (with certificates to be produced if requested);
- Techniques are carried out for less than 10 hours of clinical activity per week;
- Techniques provided by a clinician who has been qualified for more than 3 years.

The PSF grade covers all South African based treatments carried out for Cosmetic and Adjunctive but would not extend to formal arrangements to treat patients overseas.
NB intra-oral cosmetic procedures eg tooth whitening, direct and indirect bonding, crowns, bridges and veneers are included in the grades covering routine dental procedures.

ARRANGEMENTS TO TREAT OVERSEAS/NON-RESIDENTS – Means either specifically advertising dental services to overseas patients (ie promoting 'dental tourism') or entering into an arrangement with others to solicit patients who do not normally live in Southern Africa but who are visiting Southern Africa for the purpose (but not necessarily the sole purpose) of seeking dental treatment. For the avoidance of doubt, 'arrangements to treat overseas/non-residents' do not include emergency dental treatment provided to overseas/non- residents, or treatment of a foreign national where no arrangement has been entered into to solicit foreign national patients, or treatment of Southern African residents whilst home from overseas, even if resident overseas.

Dental Protection is a trading name of The Medical Protection Society Limited ("MPS"). MPS is a company limited by guarantee in England with company number 00036142 at Level 19, The Shard, 32 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9SG. Dental Protection serves and supports the dental members of MPS with access to the full range of benefits of membership, which are all discretionary, and set out in MPS's Memorandum and Articles of Association. MPS is not an insurance company. Dental Protection® is a registered trademark of MPS.
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Relevant definitions

Dental members of MPS should be aware that membership does not include protection for claims arising from dental care provided within the public sector (as this is provided by the State). Public sector full and part-time practitioners may request assistance from Dental Protection with complaints to the HPCSA, inquest proceedings, professional and ethical assistance. Public sector dentists who have a part-time private practice can request assistance with any claims arising from the private work only, provided they are in the correct category of membership.

SOUTHERN AFRICA – Means jurisdictions where SADA acts as the membership hub for Dental Protection in Southern Africa including South Africa and Namibia.

CLINICAL ACTIVITY – Means the practice of dentistry involving any contact with or treatment of patients (including consultations, advice, treatment planning, consent, record keeping etc).

DENTO-ALVEOLAR PROCEDURES/SURGERY:

Means surgery to intra-oral tissues, teeth and tooth carrying bones, ie mandible and maxilla only. Protection for these procedures is provided in all clinical grades unless these procedures occupy more than 50% of the total clinical hours worked.

- Exodontia including wisdom teeth removal;
- Apicectomies;
- Management of intra oral soft tissue lesions including biopsy;
- Dental cyst removal;
- Minor pre-prosthetic surgery.

Please ensure that you refer to the preceding relevant definitions when selecting a grade of membership.

STATE EMPLOYEE – EXCLUDING CLAIMS INDEMNITY	Specified procedures	Maxillo-facial procedures	Cosmetic and adjunctive procedures	Limited private clinical practice	Non-resident treatment	GRADE
Community service year Excluding specified, maxillofacial and cosmetic and adjunctive procedures and any private clinical work.	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	YDA
Full-time state employee undertaking clinical practice Excluding specified, maxillofacial and cosmetic and adjunctive procedures and any private clinical work.	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	YDB
Full-time state employee undertaking clinical practice Including specified and maxillofacial, but excluding cosmetic and adjunctive procedures and any private clinical work.	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	YDC
Full-time state employee with limited private clinical practice Maximum 300 hours/year private clinical practice excluding specified, maxillofacial and cosmetic and adjunctive procedures.	✗	✗	✗	✓ Max 300 hours a year	✗	YDD
Full-time state employee with limited private clinical practice Maximum 300 hours/year private clinical practice including specified, maxillofacial and cosmetic and adjunctive procedures.	✓	✓	✓	✓ Max 300 hours a year	✗	YDE
Full-time state employee with no clinical practice	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	YDN

PRIVATE DENTAL PRACTITIONER – INCLUDING CLAIMS INDEMNITY	Specified procedures	Maxillo-facial procedures	Cosmetic and adjunctive procedures	Non-resident treatment	More than 33 hours per week GRADE	>22 up to 33 hours per week GRADE	>11 up to 22 hours per week GRADE	Up to 11 hours per week GRADE
Private Practitioner year 2 – Second year after graduation	✗	✗	✗	✗	YD2	TD2	YH2	QD2
Private Practitioner full rate Excluding specified maxillofacial, cosmetic and adjunctive procedures.	✗	✗	✗	✗	YD3	TD3	YH3	QD3
Private Practitioner full rate Including specified and cosmetic and adjunctive but excluding maxillofacial procedures.	✓	✗	✓	✗	PSF	4SF	HSH	PSQ
Private Practitioner full rate Including specified and maxillofacial procedures, but excluding cosmetic and adjunctive procedures.	✓	✓	✗	✗	YD4	TD4	YH4	YDQ
Private Practitioner full rate Including specified, maxillofacial, cosmetic and adjunctive procedures.	✓	✓	✓	✗	DPF	4PF	DPH	DPQ

Private Practitioner full rate Including specified but excluding maxillofacial and cosmetic and adjunctive procedures, also including the provision of care to International patients (non-residents) travelling to South Africa for this care under arrangements to treat overseas/ non-residents – maximum indemnity R1,000,000.	✓	✗	✗	✓	**D50**	**D5T**	**D5H**	**D5Q**
Private Practitioner full rate Including specified, maxillofacial, cosmetic and adjunctive procedures. Also including the provision of care to International patients (non-residents) travelling to South Africa for this care under arrangements to treat overseas/non-residents, maximum indemnity R1,000,000.	✓	✓	✓	✓	**O50**	**O5T**	**O5H**	**O5Q**

	Specified procedures	Maxillo-facial procedures	Cosmetic and adjunctive procedures	Limited private clinical practice	Non-resident treatment	**GRADE**
Private Practitioner part-time rate With a maximum 300 practice hours/year excluding specified, maxillofacial and cosmetic and adjunctive procedures.	✗	✗	✗	✓ Max 300 hours a year	✗	**YD7**
Private Practitioner part-time rate With a maximum 300 practice hours/year including specified but excluding maxillofacial and cosmetic and adjunctive procedures.	✓	✗	✗	✓ Max 300 hours a year	✗	**PSP**
Private Practitioner part-time rate Including specified and maxillofacial but excluding cosmetic and adjunctive procedures and limited to a maximum of 300 practice hours/year.	✓	✓	✗	✓ Max 300 hours a year	✗	**YD5**

ANCILLARIES – EXCLUDING TREATMENTS UNDER ARRANGEMENTS TO TREAT OVERSEAS/NON-RESIDENTS	Specified procedures	Maxillo-facial procedures	Cosmetic and adjunctive procedures	Non-resident treatment	**GRADE**
Dental Therapist	✗	✗	✗	✗	**YDT**
Dental Hygienist - independent practice*	✗	✗	✗	✗	**YDS**
Dental Hygienist - without independent practice*	✗	✗	✗	✗	**XDS**

***Independent practice** means practising independently and autonomously in private practice where the oral hygienist works as an independent health care practitioner within the scope of the profession of oral hygiene. Oral hygienists in this membership grade must be registered to work in independent practice.

Dental Protection – South Africa

A scheme of cooperation between Dental Protection and SADA South African Dental Association

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