



SADA Professional Advisory Bulletin

- Clinical Bulletin - Countdown to Compliance: Sign Up for the DRISA Program Today!
- Legal Bulletin - Clinical reports by Dentists

Circulation date: 7 November 2024

Dear SADA Member

CLINICAL

Countdown to Compliance: Sign Up for the DRISA Program Today!

As we move into November, we want to remind you of the critical compliance deadlines approaching for dental practices across South Africa. With only a few months remaining until the new regulations take full effect in April 2025, now is the perfect time to act!

Don't Miss Out on Your Opportunity to Save R25,000!

By signing up for the DRISA Compliance Program today, you can secure your FREE Amalgam Separator unit and Chairside Amalgam Kit, valued at R25,000, with a signed annual recycling contract of 3 or 5 years.

DRISA recently hosted a [webinar](#) with SADA where we explained the program in detail, discussed the new regulations, and addressed questions from SADA members. It was wonderful to connect with so many of you and to be part of this amazing community!

Why Sign Up Now?

To accommodate all the installations in a timely manner, we encourage you to sign up for the program as soon as possible. The sooner you secure your spot, the smoother the process will be for your practice.

Get Started Today!

To sign up for the program and learn more, please visit: www.dri-sa.co.za/sada. After signing up, Wright Millner's will contact you to provide an installation date and quote. DRISA look forward to supporting you in achieving compliance and ensuring your practice's success!

Important Reminder: New Mercury Regulations

As you may be aware, the new National Environmental Management Act: Management of Mercury will come into full effect on April 1, 2025 - only 7 months away! To help you navigate these changes smoothly, DRI-SA, in partnership with SADA and Wright Millner's, has developed a tailored Compliance Program specifically for South African dentists.

Program highlights

REGULATIONS ARE HERE. TAKE ACTION TODAY!



Sign up now and your annual recycling payment is not due for 12 months! A 25000 ZAR value - FREE with your SADA Membership. South African regulations are now in effect. Don't delay - it costs nothing to sign up now and you can lock in your pricing with 3 or 5 year term agreements available.

Get Your FREE Amalgam Solutions Today!

- Amalgam Separator
- Chairside Amalgam Kit

**Lock in Pricing. Start Complying.
Enjoy Peace of Mind.**

Learn More or Sign Up at:

www.dentalrecyclinginternational.com/sada

*Sign up by December 2024. Annual Costs for the Program: R7650 for the BU10 and R12750 for the BU10-30 and R5000 for the 10L Kit. Amalgam Separators are installed in the office by Wright Millners for R6975 and replaced annually.



- **FREE Amalgam Separator Unit & Chairside Amalgam Kit:** Valued at R25,000, provided with a signed annual recycling contract of 3 or 5 years.
- **Expert Guidance:** Comprehensive support on the new regulations and compliance procedures.
- **Seamless Installation:** Ensure your equipment is installed and operational before the regulations take full effect.

LEGAL

CLINICAL REPORTS BY DENTISTS

Practitioners from time to time receive requests to prepare a report for legal, medical schemes and other purposes. Some practitioners do not enjoy writing reports, but it comes with running a clinical practice.

When will you be required to write a report?

Most requests for a report are received from patients or for their schemes but may be received from attorneys, statutory regulators like the HPCSA, employers, police, or the courts.

Any such report compiled is a medico-legal document, so practitioners are cautioned about being mindful of the language used and how the information is expressed.

Any such report compiled is a medico-legal document, so practitioners are cautioned about being mindful of the language used and how the information is expressed.

Requests by patients

If the request for a clinical report is made by the patient, the practitioner may want to find out the purpose of the report. As a medico-legal report, this will assist in what is required for the report and how you express yourself.

Request by a person other than the patient

Given that a clinical report will contain the patient's personal information, medical history, and dental treatment provided, if a request is made by the patient's representatives, such a request should be accompanied by a signed authority by the patient or the patient's permission.

It is advisable to confirm with the patient that the authorisation is valid by ensuring that he or she is aware of what has been requested, and agrees to release this information. A breach of confidentiality and privacy is one of the most common causes of complaints after a practitioner has provided a report.

Preparing the report

Before agreeing to compile a dental report, it is necessary to understand its purpose and intended use. The practitioner should clarify from the party requesting the report what this purpose is if it is unclear.

When writing it, it is necessary to keep in mind for whom and what the information for, who will read it, how it will be used or even misused. All of these will greatly assist in determining the content, tone and clarity of the report. As far as possible, remain factual and avoid inappropriate language or references to the patient, their behaviour or treatment carried out by your colleagues in a manner that cast dispersions on their professional reputation.

Are you obliged to provide a report?

The question asked most often is if practitioners may decline a request for a clinical report. In general terms, there is no legal obligation for you to prepare a report, although some statutory bodies may compel the preparation of one in certain circumstances.

However, a treating practitioner has a professional and ethical obligation to assist by providing factual information concerning a patient's condition or injury, at the patient's request, to the patient's legal advisers or, with the patient's consent, to any nominated third parties.

You have an ethical obligation to assist the patient by providing a factual report, you are under no obligation to give an opinion unless you agreed to act as an expert witness, in which case your professional opinion is a requirement.

Cost of Report

The cost of preparing a report can be based on the time it has taken to read the clinical notes, x-rays and other practitioners treatment notes if applicable. A practitioner may also charge a fixed fee by notifying the requesting party beforehand.

How to prepare a good report

1. Use your clinical notes, x-rays and supporting to prepare your report. Always ensure patient clinical notes are clear and comprehensive for reports should not be prepared from memory.
2. Be clear and accurate in your writing, and always be objective. . Be clear about who did what, when, why and to whom. Avoid using inflammatory or derogatory language.
3. Write in the first person for clarity.
4. The report must be factual, relevant to the request, and understandable to a non-clinical audience. Always consider who will read the information and write for their understanding.
5. Sufficient and relevant detail should be provided and unnecessary information excluded. The amount of detail of clinical information will depend on the report's nature

and purpose, and is a matter of clinical judgment. You should decide that on a case-by-case basis.

6. Only report on facts you know, and comment within your expertise.
7. The report should be structured and well organised. Lay out your points in chronological order. If the report is long, use headings and subheadings, and numbered short paragraphs for ease of reference for the reader.

Common Pitfalls

1. Do not rush preparation of report. You must ensure you have enough time to prepare and if necessary, discuss the matter with the party requesting it.
2. Always check your draft report for grammatical, spelling and typo errors. A report with errors comes across as unprofessional.
3. As practitioners understand clinical terminology, they will tend to use it in the report. It must be remembered that the report will be read by laypersons. The terminology used must be clear and if questioned about it, you must be able to explain it clearly and correctly.
4. Do not use legal terms as they often have clear meaning. Do not provide opinions about negligence on the part of anybody.
5. Any report prepared and distributed should not be altered at the request of any party, if you need to amend your report, provide a supplementary report and it shows transparency and intent.
6. Do not provide comments in your report which is beyond your expertise and avoid providing an opinion on a matter on which you are not an expert. If you are requested to provide an opinion beyond your expertise, rather decline and state this fact. Avoid being pressurised into providing an opinion that you are not comfortable in providing. If you called to court, if you cannot say it under oath, you should avoid writing it in the report.
7. Avoid personal remarks about your patient, family or even your colleagues. They may sight of the report and subjective and even humorous remarks are unprofessional. You should also refrain from casting reflections on the professional reputation of your colleagues.

Report signature

Finally, sign the report, date it, and make a copy for your records. When you submit the report, indicate in your records to whom you gave it, in what format, and the date and time you did so.

Conclusion

The compilation of a clinical report for medico-legal or other purposes is an essential part of the service provided by dentists. It forms a significant part of your professional duties to our patients. Practitioners should embrace this responsibility and develop the expertise to write a clear report for the benefit of their patients.

Yours in oral health

Dr Tinesha Parbhoo - Head Clinical Support

Punkaj Govan - Head Legal and Corporate

Members wishing to access circulated SADArise and Professional Advisory Bulletins

must be logged in as a Member at www.sada.co.za

Go to the Main Menu Item: Publications and Press

Select Members Newsletters

Go to The SADArise or Professional Advisory Bulletins

to download or read online

[Download this and other Professional Advisory Bulletins](#)



14 Nov	SAAPD Webinar (WEB199) 14 November 2024
16 Nov	SADA Free State Branch (FS034) - 16 November 2024
16 Nov	SADA Gauteng South Branch (GS069) - 16 November 2024
20 Nov	SADA Algoa Midlands Branch CPD Evening (AM031) - 20 November 2024
25 Jul	2025 SADA Dental & Oral Health Congress and Exhibition

[Unsubscribe from this list](#) | [Manage my subscriptions](#)



Powered by Glue Up

All-in-one CRM Software for Growing Communities