



## ADVISORY

The South African Dental Association Newsletter  
Informing Oral Healthcare Professionals

Bulletin



**Date of circulation: 14 June 2022**

Dear SADArise

Welcome to our new format Advisory Bulletin containing all the information which is important in one communication.

### CLINICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

#### Basic dental trauma benefits from Discovery

Recently, the basic dental trauma benefit was introduced by Discovery in which cover for the urgent treatment of traumatic events such as accidents and injuries emanates from the patients Hospital benefit. The trauma benefit is applicable to all Discovery plans with the exception of Essential Smart and KeyCare.

The criteria to be met in order to qualify for this benefit include:

- Either partial or complete loss of one or more teeth;
- Where partial loss has occurred, there is insufficient remaining dental hard tissue to support conservative restoration;
- The initial treatment must begin within 30-days of the traumatic event;
- The relevant ICD-10 codes and external cause codes indicate trauma.

Once the clinical entry criteria are met, the scheme also covers dental appliances and prostheses and the placement thereof, regardless of the place of service, up to an annual limit per person per year which differs from plan to plan.

Members are advised that when claims submitted are to be claimed from the trauma benefit, tooth numbers of the teeth subject to the trauma must be provided on treatment codes in addition to the corresponding material codes. This practice would only be required for claims from the trauma benefit and not from basic day-to-day cover.

#### Personnel radiation monitoring services

Certain members have reported to SADA the receipt of letters from SAHPRA indicating that, according to information supplied by the SABS, the use of dosimeters have been discontinued by their practices and that they are required inform SAHPRA within 14 days of the letter as to the steps that will be taken to correct the situation.

According to the current SAHPRA guidelines, operators of dental units are exempted from wearing personal dosimeters with the exception of practices in which:

- the position of the worker during exposures is less than 2 metres
- the **weekly** workload exceeds
  - 100 intra-oral or
  - 50 PAN/Ceph exposures or
  - A pro-rata combination of each type of examination:

| Examination                | Exposures |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------------------------|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|
|                            | 100       | 80 | 60 | 40 | 20 | 0  |
| Intra Oral and/or PAN/Ceph | 0         | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 |

If members have not met the above criteria and have received a letter from SAHPRA, they are kindly requested to inform Mr Mqondisi A Maphophe, Deputy Manager of X-Rays Licensing (Mqondisi.maphophe@sahpra.org.za) that they should be exempted from dosimetry based on the dental radiography guidelines.

#### Appropriate use of code for surgical removal of residual roots

Certain schemes have informed the SADA clinical office of a trend that has been recognized with the regard to the claiming patterns in relation to the surgical removal of residual roots. General dentists have been erroneously claiming code 8953 when surgically removing a residual root i.e., a root that lies under the mucosa, is identified by radiographs and requires mucoperiosteal flap elevation, bone removal, removal of the residual root and closure. Members are to note that code 8953 may only be claimed by Maxillofacial and Oral surgeons, while the correct corresponding code for general practitioners is 8213.

### Promotion of fissure sealants

It has also been brought to our attention that the claiming patterns of fissure sealants have been recorded as unusually low. While schemes and managed care companies may wish to promote the use of fissure sealants in order to cause a reduction in the number of more costly restorative claims later on, studies<sup>1</sup> show that where indicated, resin-based sealants placed on permanent molars are evidenced to reduce occlusal caries occurrence and arrest lesion progression in a cost-effective manner compared to no interventions. Members are therefore encouraged to apply fissure sealants where indicated and to regularly evaluate for microleakage and/or sealant fracture.

1. Phoebe PY Lam, Divesh Sardana, Edward CM Lo, Cynthia KY Yiu, FISSURE SEALANT IN A NUTSHELL. EVIDENCE-BASED META-EVALUATION OF SEALANTS' EFFECTIVENESS IN CARIES PREVENTION AND ARREST, Journal of Evidence Based Dental Practice, Volume 21, Issue 3, 2021, 101587, ISSN 1532-3382, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jebdp.2021.101587>.

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## LEGAL & CORPORATE SERVICES

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### Regulations for hazardous biological agents 2022

The employment and labour department published the above Regulations in terms of the Occupational Health and Safety Act on 16 March 2022.

Severe acute respiratory syndrome-2 (SARS CoV2) (COVID-19) is now listed as a Group 3 hazardous biological agent (HBA) in the Hazardous Biological Agents Regulations, 2022 (Regulations).

The Regulations categorise HBAs into four risk groups according to their hazard and categories of contaminants and require employers to control the exposure to HBAs in the workplace via various reasonably practicable measures.

COVID-19 is recognised as a Group 3 HBA that 'may cause severe human disease, which presents a serious hazard to exposed persons and which may present a risk of spreading to the community, but for which effective prophylaxis and treatment is available'.

By categorising COVID-19, the Regulations specify that a registered vaccine is available for use in South Africa and can, in terms of regulation 10(4)(g), be made available to control exposure to the HBA in the workplace, where reasonably practicable.

This amendment will assist employers who have implemented vaccination requirements in the workplace (or who intend to do so) to justify their requirements of vaccination as a control measure.

It can also be relied on by employers to demonstrate what is 'reasonably practicable' for purposes of complying with an employer's legal duty in terms of section 8 of the OHS Act to provide and maintain, as far as is reasonably practicable, a working environment that is safe and without risk to the health of its employees.

### Application

Regulations apply to every employer or self-employed person at a workplace where an HBA is produced, processed, used, handled, stored or transported or exposure to an HBA may occur.

### Employers Duties

The Regulations place a number of legal duties on the employer which include amongst other things the duty to employees at risk of being exposed or exposing others to HBAs are comprehensively informed, instructed and trained in both the practical aspects and theoretical knowledge with regard to:

- the potential risks to health caused by the exposure;
- the measures to be taken by the employer to protect an employee against any risk of being exposed;
- the importance of good housekeeping at the workplace and personal hygiene requirements;
- the precautions to be taken by an employee to protect him or her against the health risks associated with the exposure, including the wearing and use of protective clothing and respiratory protective equipment;
- the necessity, correct use, maintenance and potential limitation of safety equipment, facilities and engineering control measures provided;
- the maintain a risk-based medical surveillance;
- the safe working procedures regarding the use, handling, storage, labelling, and disposal of HBAs at the workplace including the procedures to be followed in the event of exposure, spillage, leakage, accidental release, injury or any similar emergency situation, and decontaminating or disinfecting contaminated areas.

### Duties – Exposed Person

- Any exposed person to HBAs must follow instructions of the employer to prevent an uncontrolled release of an HBA;
- Follow environmental and health practices instructions such as personal hygiene and good housekeeping;
- Use appropriate personal protective equipment and clothing
- Appropriate disposal of materials containing HBAs and the disinfection and decontamination of any workplace contaminated by an HBA;
- Report during normal working hours for such medical examination or tests

## **Risk Assessment**

Employers must carry out a risk assessment on whether any person could be exposed to HBA. They must document the risk assessment.

Employers carrying out this risk assessment must at least consider:

- nature of the HBA and the possible route of exposure;
- where the HBA might be present and in what form it is likely to be;
- the nature of the work and work processes;
- current control measures in place, its effectiveness and if there is deterioration in, or failure of control measures.
- What effects the HBA can have on an employee, including pregnant, immunocompromised and vulnerable employees.
- information on diseases that may be contracted as a result of the activities at the workplace;
- potential allergenic, infectious or toxic effects that may result from the activities at the workplace;
- knowledge of diseases from which employees might be suffering and which may be aggravated by conditions at the workplace.

Based on this risk assessment the employment must consider and develop an action plan for implementing the recommendations.

## **Personal protective equipment and facilities**

Employers are required in case of airborne, ingestion and contact transmission, provide the employee with suitable protective equipment and protective clothing.

Take steps to ensure that all protective equipment and protective clothing not in use are stored in a demarcated area with proper access control. Where clothing is sent off the premises to a contractor for cleaning purposes, the contractor must place the clothing in impermeable, tightly sealed colour coded containers and such containers must be clearly identified with a biohazard label. Clothing from facilities handling HBA Risk Group 3 agents is sent off the premises for any purposes, it must first be decontaminated.

Employers to provide adequate washing facilities which are readily accessible and located in an area where the facilities will not become contaminated, in order to enable the employees to meet the standard of personal hygiene consistent with the adequate control of exposure, and to avoid the spread of HBAs.

## **Prohibitions**

No person may use compressed air to remove HBAs from any surface or person; eat, drink, smoke, keep food or beverages or apply cosmetics where an HBA is handled or require or permit any other person to eat, drink, smoke, keep food or beverages or apply cosmetics in such a workplace; or leave a controlled area without prior removal of potentially contaminated protective clothing.

## **Labelling, packaging, transporting and storage**

An employer or self-employed person must, as far as is reasonably practicable, take steps to ensure that -

- all HBAs under his or her control in storage, transit or being distributed are properly contained and controlled to prevent the spread of contamination from the workplace;
- the colour coded containers in which HBAs are transported are clearly marked with a biohazard sign and other relevant warning signs that identify the contents;

## **Disposal of HBAs**

An employer must have written procedures for appropriate decontamination and disinfection:

- how infectious waste to be handled and disposed of without risk; provide sufficient hazardous waste containers for disposal of used personal protective equipment;
- ensure that all fixtures, plant and machinery including vehicles, reusable containers and covers which have been in contact with HBA waste are disinfected and decontaminated after use in such a manner that it does not cause a hazard inside or outside the workplace concerned;
- ensure that all employees involved in the collection, transport and disposal of HBA waste and who may be exposed to that waste are provided with suitable personal protective equipment;
- ensure that if the services of a waste disposal contractor are used, a provision is incorporated into the contract stating that the contractor must comply with the provisions of these Regulations; and
- ensure that HBA waste that can cause exposure is treated and disposed of only on sites specifically designated and authorised for this purpose in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008).

## **SADA GAZETTE BULLETIN - MAY 2022**

This bulletin overviews new relevant legislation published in the government gazette affecting the dental profession up to the end of May 2022.

[To access Bulletins click here](#)

### FDI International Liaison Officer

The South African Dental Association is a member of the International Federation of Dental Associations (FDI), which has as its mission to “raise the bar by bringing a new international perspective to regional and national debate on oral health, dental practice and health politics”.

In order to extract the most value from its FDI membership, in the interest of SADA's members, the National Council of SADA has resolved that a dedicated position be formulated for an individual who can represent SADA and the dental profession on a continuous annual basis at FDI meetings and through participation in FDI projects.

It has been recognised that participation within the FDI structures could bring significant value, both to SADA and to the individuals who represent the organisation on international level:

- 1. For SADA, there is the value of influencing the FDI governance structures, in order to pursue initiatives that are more relevant to SADA as a national organisation.**  
In order to have maximum impact, it is required that a dedicated resource attends at FDI meetings for a contracted period of time, in order to stand the best possible chance of being elected to the relevant FDI committees and council.
- 2. For the individual(s) concerned, there is significant personal value in respect of international recognition, business networks and career trajectory.**

SADA therefore wishes to call for applications from individuals who are interested to represent the organisation as FDI Liaison Officer for a contract period of 5 years. The impact of this role will be assessed on an annual basis.

Due to the nature of the role, and the personal value that it brings, this position will not attract any remuneration from SADA, however, all travel, accommodation and networking costs in respect of attendance at the annual international FDI meetings, as well as any project costs related to participation in FDI projects, will be funded in full by SADA.

Responsibilities will include:

- Attendance at the annual FDI Parliament and World Dental Congress as the SADA National Liaison Officer and primary SADA delegate at any applicable international location during second half of the year annually, thereafter.
- Identify speakers and educational value that can be brought to South Africa from attendance at the international FDI congress.
- Implementation of FDI initiatives on national level (e.g., implementation of the Live Learn Laugh Programme) and submission of any relevant reports to the SADA management and FDI in this regard.
- Providing a report to every meeting of the SADA National Council (twice per annum), on all FDI business conducted and value extracted for SADA from such engagements.

Essential experience and requirements:

- Active SADA membership;
- understanding of and/or experience in SADA's governance structures;
- understanding of and/or experience in continued dental education;
- dynamic, outgoing personality with excellent networking skills;
- excellent written and verbal communication skills;
- good organisational skills and reporting abilities;
- self-starter, with the ability to work independently and as part of a team;
- solid IT literacy.

Applications should be submitted to [secretary@sada.co.za](mailto:secretary@sada.co.za) by no later than 30 June 2022, supported by a CV and letter of motivation. Applications will be considered by the SADA Nominations Committee.

SADA subscribes to the principles of transformation and will welcome applications from members of all the designated groups, including people with disabilities.

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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### Call for nominations - 2021 SADA Award Recipients

The South African Dental Association would like to call out to all its members to nominate eligible award recipients for the 2022 awards ceremony. Through its Awards Programme, SADA acknowledges and seeks to give due recognition to the unique abilities and contributions of many outstanding members of the dental and allied professions.

The SADA Awards Programme is a showcase for all the excellent work that is taking place in dentistry in South Africa. The programme seeks to recognize and reward the work of some of the best achievers in dentistry, celebrating their efforts and commitment to the dental profession.

The awards are presented primarily at major events of the Association and meetings in which the Association participates.

### **Who may nominate award recipients**

All members of the Association are entitled to nominate a deserving individual/s for a SADA Award. Nominations should be made through Branches of SADA marked for the attention of the CEO of SADA and the Head: Professional Development.

The Nomination Package should include the following:

- full name and address of the person being nominated;
- name and address of the person or Branch of SADA submitting the nomination;
- specification of the type of award to be considered;
- a covering letter with motivation, explaining why the nominee deserves the award;
- a curriculum vitae of the nominee;
- a listing of the nominee's publications, awards, honours, achievements, and other professional accomplishments;
- any supporting letters from SADA members or other individuals should be included with the nomination package.

### **Award Presentation**

Awards shall be presented at the annual SADA Dental Congress and Exhibition held virtually in August 2022. The ceremony will take place on Saturday evening (virtually) and the winners will receive their awards via courier afterwards.

The identity of the proposed recipient remains confidential from general announcement until the name/s is/are announced at an official SADA Congress.

The names and photos of the recipients of awards shall be displayed on the SADA website.

### **Award Categories**

#### **SADA Premier Award**

##### **Purpose**

The SADA Premier Award is presented to dentists or dental specialists who have made contributions of the highest distinction in the dental profession both nationally and internationally.

The award is presented to a person who best exhibits the following characteristics:

- significantly demonstrated contribution and dedication to the enhancement of the dental profession internationally and nationally;
- displayed selfless commitment, outstanding service, exceptional devotion, and/or compassion to the Association and the dental profession;
- zeal in accomplishing the dental mission;
- showed beneficial service to the profession and society;
- has promoted the advancement of the dental profession through eminent service;
- personifies the spirit of the Association;
- tirelessly strives to create positive change in dentistry.

##### **Eligibility**

A Recipient must:

- be a qualified dentist or dental specialist;
- be a SADA member;
- be a South African citizen by birth or naturalization;
- have rendered at least ten years of exemplary service to dentistry in any capacity;
- have belonged to any organisation which is a founding member of SADA;
- if living abroad, the criteria of SADA membership and need not apply.

#### **SADA Service Excellence Award**

##### **Purpose**

The SADA Service Excellence Award is presented to any member of SADA for outstanding instances of service to the Association and its structures, or who renders distinguished and exemplary services over some time to the Association.

The award is presented to a candidate who best exhibits the following characteristics: -

Selflessness;

- concern for SADA and the dental profession;
- high moral character;
- commitment to and involvement in SADA affairs and a commitment to dentistry;
- demonstrates through activities and achievements a strong interest in the affairs of SADA and the dental profession.

##### **Eligibility**

The candidate must:

- be a Voting Member of SADA;
- have acted in an official capacity as an office-bearer of SADA or Chairperson/s of Standing Committees of SADA for at least 8 years;
- be a South African citizen by birth or naturalization;
- own a dental qualification from a recognized institution or a Doctorate in Philosophy or Science from a recognized institution.

## **SADA Meritorious Service Award**

### **Purpose**

The SADA Meritorious Service Award is presented to individual members of SADA in recognition of their significant contribution, longstanding, and meritorious service rendered to SADA at National level or to Branches of SADA.

The award is presented to a person who best exhibits the following characteristics:

- selflessness;
- outstanding service, dedication and devotion to the affairs of SADA nationally and its Branches;
- commitment to and involvement in SADA affairs;
- demonstrates through activities and achievements a strong interest in the affairs of SADA and the dental profession;
- continuously goes above and beyond the call of duty.

### **Eligibility**

The candidate must have:

- rendered exemplary service to SADA and/or its Branches;
- demonstrated through activities a strong commitment to the affairs of SADA and the dental profession;
- given outstanding service and devotion to SADA and/or its Branches.

## **SADA Humanitarian Award**

### **Purpose**

The South African Dental Association annually recognises a dentist who has distinguished him/herself by outstanding, unselfish leadership.

### **Eligibility**

The candidate must have:

- 10-year commitment to their fellow human beings in the field of dentistry.

## **SADA Honorary Life Membership**

### **Purpose**

Honorary Life Membership of SADA is presented to individual members of SADA in recognition for loyalty, distinguished or meritorious services rendered to the Association or the dental profession generally or to any other allied science or humanity generally or on any other grounds approved by the National Council of SADA for many years.

The award is presented to a person who best exhibits the following characteristics:

- selflessness;
- distinguished themselves for outstanding service;
- dedication and devotion to the affairs of SADA and the dental profession;
- who through their actions and eminent service have promoted the advancement of the Association and the dental profession in generally;
- demonstrates through activities and achievements a strong interest in the affairs of SADA and the dental profession.

### **Eligibility**

The candidate must have:

- rendered exemplary service to SADA for a minimum period of 20 years;
- demonstrated through activities a strong commitment to the affairs of SADA and the dental profession;
- given outstanding service and devotion to SADA.

## **SADA Honorary Membership**

### **Purpose**

Honorary Membership of SADA is presented to individual dentists who do not practice or reside in the Republic of South Africa in recognition of distinguished or meritorious service rendered to the Association or the dental profession generally, OR individuals in recognition of distinguished or meritorious service rendered by that person to the Association or the dental profession generally or to any other allied science or humanity generally or on any other grounds approved by National Council of SADA.

The award is presented to a candidate who best exhibits the following characteristics:

- selflessness;
- distinguished themselves for outstanding service, dedication, and devotion to the affairs of SADA and the dental profession;
- who through their actions and eminent service have promoted the advancement of SADA and the dental profession;
- demonstrates through activities and achievements a strong interest in the affairs of SADA and the dental profession in South Africa.

### **Eligibility**

The candidate must have:

- rendered exemplary service to SADA or dentistry;
- demonstrated through activities a strong commitment to the affairs of the dental profession and SADA.

## SADA Trader of the year Award

### Purpose

The SADA Trader of the Year Award is presented to the CEO of the dental trade organisation that was of most value to SADA and its members during the past calendar year in respect of the identified criteria.

### Eligibility

- All dental traders are eligible to receive this award.
- For the Practitioners' Choice component of the selection criteria, an e-mail will be distributed to all members with a request to nominate traders from whom they have received the best products, pricing and service during the past calendar year.
- The traders with the most nominations will be entered into the selection calculations.

## Dental Industry Innovation Award

### Purpose

Recognises pioneers in business who develop most innovative new dental products, materials, technology solutions or equipment that have been brought to market and have demonstrably empowered Oral Health Professionals to advance the health and well-being of South Africans.

### Eligibility

- All dental industries are eligible to receive this award.
- For the Practitioners' Choice component of the selection criteria, an e-mail shall be distributed to all members with a request to nominate traders from whom they have received the most innovative dental products, materials, technology solutions and equipment during the past calendar year.
- All traders and suppliers nominated shall be referred to the Strategy, Ethics & Remuneration for final selection and recommendation to the Board.

**The deadline for nominations is 00:00 15 June 2022**

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Kind Regards

**Dr T Parbhoo – SADA Clinical Support Services Email: [clinical@sada.co.za](mailto:clinical@sada.co.za)**

**Mr P Govan – SADA Legal & Corporate Department Email: [legal@sada.co.za](mailto:legal@sada.co.za)**

**Dr NP Metsing – SADA Professional Development Department Email: [profdev@sada.co.za](mailto:profdev@sada.co.za)**

#### SADA MEMBER QUICK LINKS

- 📄 Join SADA
- 📄 Join DP
- 📄 Member's section
- 📄 Events

Tel: +27 11 484 5288

E-mail: [info@sada.co.za](mailto:info@sada.co.za)

Web: [www.sada.co.za](http://www.sada.co.za)



Please whitelist any email arriving from an @sada.co.za address within your system and allow PDF attachments to your emails from SADA to prevent the email communication from being blocked or landing in your Junkmail folder.  
All communications with SADA should be directed to [info@sada.co.za](mailto:info@sada.co.za) and include your HPCSA Registration number  
E&OE

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