

# FIJI DENTAL COUNCIL

## GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCTING PRIVATE DENTAL PRACTICE IN FIJI

1. Anyone currently operating in private dental practice, or intends to practice, including locumship must inform the dental council, the scope of services provided, physical address and hours of operation of the premises used. The council must also be informed of any changes that should arise to the above, as soon as one applicably can without any unreasonable delays.
2. All current practices are encouraged to seek accreditation from the council within the next 3 years or within a reasonable time frame where this is not practicable. Details outlining the process of obtaining accreditation of dental care facilities are published in a separate document, which is available from the secretariat of the council.
3. Obtaining accreditation from the council is mandatory for all new dental facility that intends to provide dental care, together with any existing facility that undergoes any process of changes in ownership or substantial alterations to its physical infrastructure. The council must be invited by any prospecting new owner(s) of any new or existing facility to inspect premises that the owner(s) intends to operate, at least 14 working days prior to starting operation, and any cost incurred shall be borne by the applicant.
4. Dental practitioners who intend to operate in private practices must have had a minimum of 3 years of satisfactory supervised clinical experience after completing internship, and/or should show evidence of prior 3 years of satisfactory and adequate duration of clinical activity/performance immediately before any application is made. Places where clinical supervision are recognised are all government sub-divisional and divisional level clinics and accredited private practices. Only senior dental practitioners of good standing, working in accredited facilities are eligible to be entrusted with the task of mentoring, monitoring and supervising clinical practice of new graduates.
5. Any existing dental care facility owner that intends to recruit additional dental practitioners on their staff list on either locum/volunteer/part-time/temporary/full-time basis, irrespective of the terms and conditions of employment/engagement, will have to first ensure that the premises utilised is duly accredited by the Dental Council.
6. Junior Dental Practitioners (with less than 3 years of clinical experience) who are already in private practice in 2011, are to seek mentor(s) as soon as possible. Individuals who can be entrusted with the task of mentorship are senior dentists of good standing, who are willing to report periodically to the council as requested, on the performance of the concerned dentist. The period of mandatory mentorship shall be determined by the council.
7. All practitioners and owners of any dental operatory must abide by the code of ethics which is endorsed by the Fiji Dental Council for the dental profession, together with any other additional conditions that may be imposed by the Fiji Dental Council at anytime.
8. Fiji Dental Council reserves the right to inspect any facility that provides dental services, and quiz any proprietor(s)/practitioner(s) on any matter pertaining to the facility, at any time without any prior notice as empowered by Part 9: 59 (1.a) of the Medical and Dental Practitioners Decree.
9. The above guidelines may be regularly reviewed and amendments made from time to time as the council sees fit.