

Dear Sir,

I refer to the Consultation Draft of the Proposed Guidelines on supervision (for Limited registration) dated 22 December 2010. On page 2 under "Summary of Guidelines", the first guideline sets out "the requirements of a supervisor".

My reading of these requirements gives me cause for concern. I understand that the word "supervision" does not imply "teaching", and that Limited Registrants have presumably undergone "teaching" at their dental school of origin. However, there is nothing in the draft guidelines to require a supervisor to have undergone any period of training in the art and science of supervision. Neither is there any ratio of supervisor:limited registrant mentioned. There are certain facilities in which one supervisor is expected to be responsible for up to four limited registrants, while still carrying out his or her own clinical duties in that facility.

Personally, I would like to see a requirement for a qualified supervisor to have undergone further training, even extending that to the level of a Masters degree or at least the FRACDS, but I understand that this would be politically unacceptable, so I cannot expect such a standard to be upheld. However, if these proposed guidelines are our opportunity to set the standard for supervision, the current draft seems to set the bar lower rather than higher, and historically, it has proven much easier to lower standards in the future if indicated, rather than start out low and go backwards from there.

Yours faithfully,
Dr Jeff Mount