



## SINGAPORE DENTAL COUNCIL

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All Registered Dental Practitioners,

### **PROHIBITION OF DENTAL PULP TISSUE / STEM CELL COLLECTION AND STORAGE**

It has been brought to the Ministry of Health and Singapore Dental Council (SDC)'s attention that some dental practitioners have collaborated or have been approached by non-healthcare business entities to facilitate the collection of dental pulp tissues for processing and storage in overseas facilities.

2. Dental pulp tissue and dental pulp stem cells (DPSCs) currently lack clinical evidence for therapeutic use and have not been accepted as a form of evidence-based therapy for regenerative medicine nor dentistry by the local medical and dental professions. Hence, dental practitioners are not allowed to carry out any activity relating to the harvesting of dental pulp tissues and DPSCs.

3. The conduct of the following activities by SDC-registered dentists breaches the SDC Ethical Codes and Guidelines Clause 4.1.4:

- (a) Associate/ collaborate with non-healthcare business entities to facilitate an unproven clinical service, such as dental pulp tissue and/or DPSC banking;
- (b) Extract tooth/ teeth for non-dental indications, such as deliberate tooth extraction for the purpose of harvesting and banking of dental pulp tissue and/or DPSC; and
- (c) Conduct any activities associated with dental pulp tissue and/ or DPSC banking, such as donor/ patient counselling, collection of blood specimen for screening tests and washing/pre-treatment of dental pulp tissues prior to transporting to overseas stem cell bank.

4. The Ministry of Health and Singapore Dental Council would like to remind all licensees and managers of dental clinics and dental practitioners that dental services provided must be evidence-based and clinically indicated. Unauthorised, unsubstantiated and experimental dental procedures should not be conducted by dental practitioner. Such services should only be conducted in the context of research:

- (a) Where the research is conducted as a clinical trial in accordance with the Health Products Act or the Medicines Act, the research must be conducted with the approval of the Health Sciences Authority; or
- (b) Where the research falls under Section 3 of the Human Biomedical Research Act\* (HBRA), the research must be conducted under the supervision and control of a Research Institution (RI) that has notified MOH, with approval of an Institutional Review Board appointed by the RI and with appropriate consent by the research subject.

5. These services should not be publicised as approved dental services unless approved/ endorsed by the Ministry.

6. Furthermore, should you be removing, collecting, storing or supplying human tissue, including dental pulp tissue and dental pulp stems, for research purposes, you may also be subjected to the Human Tissue Framework under the Human Biomedical Research Act when the Framework is promulgated. You are encouraged to familiarise yourself with the Act prior to the promulgation date (visit [www.moh.gov.sg/policies-and-legislation/human-biomedical-research-act](http://www.moh.gov.sg/policies-and-legislation/human-biomedical-research-act)) to access the Human Biomedical Research Act and Regulations.

7. You may also write to **[hbr\\_enquiries@moh.gov.sg](mailto:hbr_enquiries@moh.gov.sg)** if you need further clarifications.

Yours sincerely,



DR CHNG CHAI KIAT  
REGISTRAR

Cc: Regulatory Compliance & Enforcement Division, MOH