

Ms Lisa Sum

6 December 2016

By email only: request-363966-5aac8f1b@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Ms Sum,

Your request for further information

Thank you for your email of 10 November 2016 which the General Dental Council (GDC) has treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the 'FOI Act'). Following on from the GDC's response to your initial request for information on the 10 October, you have requested the following information:

- Can you confirm whether hygienists and therapists can provide Botox and whether it is the practice of Dentistry?

The GDC can confirm that under the prescription of a dentist, hygienists and therapists can provide (meaning administer or inject) Botox, so long as they are trained, competent and indemnified.

As you may be aware, Botox can be used for a wide variety of purposes, across medicine, dentistry and for cosmetic procedures. Thus, while Botox can be used to treat some dental conditions, it cannot be strictly defined as the practice of dentistry.

Like medicine, the practice of dentistry is not clearly defined, and therefore no finite list of skills/procedures exists. The practice of dentistry is restricted to dental professionals, however dental professionals are not restricted from carrying out duties that are not the practice of dentistry. And so dental professionals may undertake tasks outside the practice of dentistry (for example, taking blood pressure) as long as they are trained, competent and indemnified. Similarly, dental professionals may administer or inject Botox, which is not strictly the practice of dentistry, as long as they are trained, competent and indemnified.

Internal Review and Complaints Procedure

I trust that the above information above is of assistance, however, in accordance with the FOI Act, if you would like to complain about this response or the way your request has been handled, you are able to ask that an internal review be carried out. Complaints should be addressed to:

Principal Legal Adviser
General Dental Council
37 Wimpole Street
London
W1G 8DQ

Email: foirequests@gdc-uk.org

If, at the end of the process, you are not satisfied with the response that you receive, you may write to the Information Commissioner, who is appointed to consider such complaints. His contact details are as follows:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire

37 Wimpole Street London W1G 8DQ
Phone: +44 (0)20 7167 6000 Email: information@gdc-uk.org
Ian Brack, Chief Executive and Registrar

SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

Website: www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Janet Collins
Head of Standards

General Dental Council

Phone: +44(0)20 7167 6000

Web: www.gdc-uk.org

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