

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Certificate of Competency (COC) for Wisdom Tooth Surgery

About the COC

1. What is the COC for Wisdom Tooth Surgery?

The COC for Wisdom Tooth Surgery is a structured training course that establishes a pathway for general dental practitioners to upskill beyond undergraduate training in wisdom tooth surgery. Upon completion, practitioners receive a Certificate of Competency, which serves as recognition of their professional development and acquisition of specific knowledge and skills. It is not a displayable qualification.

2. Is the COC mandatory?

The COC is not mandatory. It is highly encouraged that clinicians performing wisdom tooth surgeries hold a COC or a Master of Dental Surgery (or equivalent) in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Dental practitioners remain responsible for the care and management of their own patients and must limit their scope of work to areas in which they are competent.

3. How does the accreditation for Wisdom Tooth Surgery differ from the accreditation for Aesthetic Facial Procedures?

The accreditation for Aesthetic Facial Procedures is a mandatory requirement for fully-registered dentists who wish to perform aesthetic procedures, and dentists are required to fulfil the requirements stated in the Guidelines for Aesthetic Facial Procedures before submitting their application to the Council for accreditation to perform the procedures. Some aesthetic procedures require renewal of accreditation before lifelong accreditation can be granted. On the other hand, the accreditation for Wisdom Tooth Surgery is currently not a mandatory requirement for dentists who wish to perform wisdom tooth surgery.

4. What is the difference between the initial accreditation and lifelong accreditation?

Upon completing the COC course, practitioners receive an initial Certificate of Competency valid for three years. During this period, practitioners are to document at least 30 cases performed in their normal course of practice. Upon submission of the logbook to the SDC, lifelong accreditation will be granted. The three-year period provides a structured timeframe for practitioners to demonstrate continued competency through documented cases.

5. Can cases performed before completing the COC course be counted towards lifelong accreditation?

Only cases performed after completing the COC course may be counted towards the 30-case requirement for lifelong accreditation.

Scope of Training

6. What types of wisdom tooth surgeries are covered under the COC?

The COC covers mandibular wisdom tooth surgeries up to an intermediate level of difficulty. Guiding criteria include Level A and Level B impaction depth, Class I and Class II ramus relationship, vertical, mesio-angular and horizontal angulations, selected inferior

alveolar canal relationships, and uni-radicular and multi-radicular teeth with single, fused, parallel or convergent roots without root dilaceration. Cases of greater complexity are beyond the scope of the COC and should be referred to oral and maxillofacial surgeons.

Course Requirements

7. What are the components of the COC course?

The COC course comprises a didactic component and a clinical component. The didactic component requires a minimum of eight hours of instruction at an accredited training centre, taught by registered oral and maxillofacial surgeons, and includes a 30-question MCQ assessment with an 80% pass mark. The clinical component requires at least one observership of a wisdom tooth surgery and completion of a minimum of five satisfactory hands-on cases.

8. Does the didactic component need to be completed before the clinical component?

It is strongly recommended that the didactic component be completed before proceeding to the clinical observership and hands-on cases.

9. Do I need to complete both the didactic and clinical components with the same training provider?

There is no requirement for participants to complete both components with the same training provider. Participants may select offerings from different accredited providers to suit their learning needs and schedules.

10. What is the timeframe to complete the COC course?

The COC course must be completed within six months.

11. What happens if I am unable to complete the five satisfactory cases within six months?

If you are unable to complete the required five satisfactory cases within six months, you will need to reapply for the COC course and complete the entire course again, including the didactic component.

12. Who is responsible for sourcing patients for the hands-on cases?

Course participants are responsible for sourcing their own patients for the five hands-on cases.

13. Are X-rays required to be submitted as part of the logbook?

X-rays are not required to be submitted as part of the logbook. However, supervisors may review radiographs as part of the case assessment.

14. Are wisdom tooth surgeries performed as part of the clinical component of the COC training eligible for Medisave claims?

Yes. Where a wisdom tooth surgery performed as part of the clinical component of the COC training qualifies for MediSave claims, the procedure may be submitted under the appropriate Table of Surgical Procedures (TOSP) code, subject to prevailing MediSave guidelines.

Course Supervision

15. Who is eligible to be a supervisor for the COC course?

Supervisors must be either a registered oral and maxillofacial surgeon, or a registered dental practitioner who meets one of the following criteria – (a) practitioners with a BDS obtained in 2005 or earlier must be fully registered with at least 20 years of clinical experience and a minimum of 100 cases performed (via self-declaration) or (b) practitioners with a BDS obtained after 2005 must have attained lifelong COC accreditation for wisdom tooth surgery, which also qualifies them to supervise.

16. Why is there a 2005 cut-off date for supervisors?

The 2005 cut-off date ensures that supervisors in this category have accumulated at least 20 years of clinical experience, providing sufficient real-world exposure and professional growth over time.

17. If a practitioner graduated after 2005 but has completed more than 100 cases, can they be a supervisor?

Not under the grandfathering exercise. While case volume is important, the time-based criteria ensure that a potential supervisor has had sufficient real-world exposure and professional growth over time, in addition to case experience. Practitioners who graduated after 2005 may become supervisors upon attaining lifelong COC accreditation.

18. Are supervisors required to register with the SDC?

Yes. Supervisors are required to formally register with the SDC prior to supervising any COC course participant.

19. Do the hands-on cases need to be performed only at the supervisor's clinic?

No, the hands-on cases may be performed at either the supervisor's or supervisee's clinic.

20. Are supervisors allowed to charge supervisees for supervising them?

Any charges by supervisors for supervising COC course participants are to be negotiated between the parties involved.

21. Who bears responsibility for the patient during the COC training?

The supervisor and the course participant share joint responsibility for the surgical management of the patient during the course of the COC training.

Training Providers

22. How do COC training providers apply for accreditation?

Training providers must formally register their COC course with the SDC for accreditation before commencing training. The SDC will review the course content, structure, and trainer qualifications. Training providers whose courses meet the accreditation requirements during their first course will receive conditional accreditation, subject to SDC audits. Full accreditation for a period of two years will be granted upon passing the audit, after which re-accreditation will be required.

23. Can COC training be conducted overseas?

As the SDC does not have jurisdiction over foreign training providers and sites, training providers should preferably seek partnerships with established local dental groups, clinics, and/or public health institutions in Singapore to conduct the course.

Course Participants

24. Are conditionally-registered dentists allowed to register for the COC course?

Yes, conditionally-registered dentists are allowed to register for the COC course, subject to the conditions of their conditional registration.

25. Do the supervisors for the C-reg dentists need to be present for the hands-on cases?

No, supervisors for conditionally-registered dentists need not be present for the hands-on cases. However, conditionally-registered dentists should write in to inform the SDC beforehand that they will be performing hands-on cases for the purposes of the COC.

26. Can two wisdom tooth surgeries performed on the same patient be counted as two hands-on cases?

Note that the COC covers only mandibular (lower) wisdom teeth. The lower left and right wisdom teeth may be counted separately. Therefore, one lower left and one lower right wisdom tooth surgery performed on the same patient would count as two separate cases.

Course Accreditation

27. How do I apply for accreditation after completing the COC course?

Upon completing the didactic component, course participants should obtain a certificate of completion from their respective training providers and submit it together with a copy of the completed logbook to the SDC. Following verification, the dental practitioner will be granted initial COC accreditation to perform wisdom tooth surgeries. The COC is not a displayable qualification.

28. Does receiving the COC mean the SDC endorses my practice?

The issuance of a COC indicates only that you have completed the course. Dental practitioners remain responsible for the care and management of their own patients and must limit their scope of work to areas in which they are competent.

29. What happens if I am unable to complete 30 cases within the three-year initial accreditation period?

If you are unable to complete 30 cases within the three-year initial accreditation period, your initial COC accreditation will lapse at the end of the three years. If you subsequently wish to obtain COC accreditation again, you will need to reapply for and complete the full COC course, including the didactic component.

30. Does completion of COC training count towards Continuing Professional Education (CPE) points?

Yes. The COC supports continuing professional development and lifelong learning. The didactic component of the COC course will be eligible for CPE points, based on the total training hours, in line with prevailing requirements for Practising Certificate (PC) renewal.