



## SINGAPORE DENTAL ASSOCIATION

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Council 2024-2026

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17 April 2026

### SDA PRESS RELEASE

#### Singapore Dental Association Reaffirms Firm Stance Against Illegal Dentistry

The Singapore Dental Association (SDA) strongly reiterates that it does not support or condone any form of illegal dental practice in Singapore.

Illegal dentistry refers to dental procedures and treatment acts performed by individuals who are not registered dentists, often carried out in non-clinical settings such as beauty salons, private residences, or unlicensed premises. These may include procedures such as veneers, clear aligner treatments, and other forms of dental intervention that require clinical assessment, diagnosis, and professional oversight.

The SDA notes that under current regulations, certain over-the-counter oral hygiene products, including teeth whitening products containing  $\leq 0.1\%$  hydrogen peroxide, is allowed for sale to the public. The provision of teeth whitening services using such products does not in itself constitute an offence. However, such services may carry risks if performed without appropriate training and infection control measures. Members of the public should exercise caution and seek professional advice where appropriate.

Such practices pose significant risks to patient safety. Dental procedures require appropriate clinical training, sterilisation protocols, proper diagnosis, and adherence to established standards of care. When performed by unqualified individuals:

- Patients may suffer potentially irreversible damage to teeth, gums, and oral structures
- There is a risk of infection and cross-contamination due to inadequate sterilisation
- Underlying dental conditions may be misdiagnosed or not appropriately assessed
- There may be limited avenues for accountability or professional recourse if complications arise

The SDA emphasises that dental treatment is a regulated healthcare service, and only practitioners registered with the Singapore Dental Council are authorised to provide such care.

The SDA supports a balanced, risk-based regulatory approach, and continues to work closely with relevant authorities to promote patient safety and public awareness.

17 April 2026  
SDA Press Release

In line with its commitment to public safety and professional standards, the SDA will be hosting a National Dental Association (NDA) Forum on Illegal Dentistry during IDEM 2026. The forum will bring together many regional dental association leaders to share insights on the prevalence, trends, and regulatory challenges of illegal dentistry across Asia.

We are honoured that Adjunct Professor (Dr) Raymond Chua, Chief Executive Officer, Health Sciences Authority and concurrently Deputy Director-General of Health (Health Regulation), Ministry of Health, will deliver the keynote address, providing regulatory perspectives on this important issue.

Through this forum, the SDA aims to:

- Raise public awareness of the dangers of illegal dental practices
- Encourage informed decision-making when seeking dental care
- Strengthen regional collaboration in addressing cross-border and online illegal dental services
- Support regulatory efforts to safeguard patient safety

The SDA urges members of the public to seek dental care only from registered dental professionals and to verify practitioners through official channels.

Patient safety must always come first.

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Executive Council  
Singapore Dental Association