Dentists here have the skills for riskier procedures: Dental body

No need for watchdog's proposed certificates of competency, it says

Salma Khalik Sanior Health Correspondent

Local dentists have said they are Local dentists have said they are perfectly capable of carrying out riskier procedures and should not need to get certificates of competency, as has been suggested by the industry watchdog.

The Singapore Dental Association (SDA) said that dentists are already well trained and have the necessary skills.

It was weighing in on a proposal by the Singapore Dental Council (SDC), the profession's watchdog,

that certificates of competency may be imposed on GP dentists who carry out procedures such as implants and wisdom teeth surgery. Re said in a statement yesterday that the proposal "relies on the premise that dental general practicertain procedures and that the proposal "relies on the premise that dental general practiceration procedures and that the proposal "relies on the premise that dental general practiceration procedures and that the proposal "relies on the premise that dental general practiceration procedures and that dental graduates" are sufficiently easily strength of the strong opinion" that dental graduates "are sufficiently easily strength of the strong opinion" that dental graduates "are sufficiently only the procedure of how often specialists have had to ball out dentists "who took on work beyond their abilities". The specialists have had to to the strong the procedure in the procedure of the specialist was a sufferinately easily the procedure of the specialist was a suffering the procedure of the procedure of the specialist was a suffering the procedure

has been suggested that if any proce-dure is arbitrarily decided to be obs-sified as specialist/advanced/com-plex, GPs, regardless of training and experience, will not be allowed to perform these any more."
It is not the training the dentists are opposed to, he said. "What we truly are against is the introduction of restrictions without proper just-fication from the authorities."
He added that requiring certifi-cation from the authorities."
He added that requiring certifi-cation from the suthorities. "When the fees charged by specialists for braces could be a couple of thou-sand dollars more than those charged by GP dentists.
The SDA proposed that all den-tists be allowed to continue offer-ing the procedures and for the coun-

ing the procedures and for the coun-

cil to work with the dental faculty at

cil to work with the dental faculty at the National University of Singa-pore to include such training in the curriculum. Any additional training could be included in the 70 hours of conti-nuing professional education that dentists now need in order to re-new their practising certificates ev-

ery two years. Dr Lim said the SDA is happy to work with the council to formulate

Dr Lim said the SDA is happy to work with the council to formulate these courses. She said that because of the lack. She said than, dentists are not sure of what the proposed certificates of competency will entail, but it's unlikely to be one day's training." If they have to get certificates for several procedures, it would be conerous, Dr Lim said. The SDC and the Ministry of Health are assessing whether competencies to provide highter-risk wisdom teeth surgery need to be enhanced.

They said: "This is to allow dentists to be further trained in these specific dental procedures and to be able to practise safely and competently without having to undergo-specialist training."

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Ms Teresa Tan walking on stage with the aid of an exoskeleton suit and a hospital staff member at the launch of the Temasek Foundation – Improving Mobility via Exoskeletons (iMOVE) programme at Alexandra Hospital yesterday. With them are yesterday.
With them are fellow iMOVE patient Henry Tan and chief of rehabilitation services at Alexandra Dr Effie Chew



New programme seeks to develop use of exoskeletons in patient rehab

Felicia Choo

A spinal cord injury 15 years ago crippled Ms Teresa Tan and left her in a wheelchair, but wearing a bionic exoskeleton has helped her towalk again.

Ms Tan, 67, is one of 36 patients who are unable to walk independence of the part of a study looking at the effectiveness of using exoskeletons – external skeletons that support and protect the body – in the rehabilitation process.

The Temasek Foundation – Improving Mobility via Exoskeletons (fMOVE) programme will study part of the proving Mobility via Exoskeletons (fMOVE) programme will study part of the proving Mobility via Exoskeletons in rehabilitation care, from the hospital to the community. It will seek to improve the mobility and potential of scaling up the use of robotic exoskeletons in rehabilitation care, from the hospital to the community. It will seek to improve the mobility and independence of patients especially delety ones – suffering from conditions like strokes and from conditions like strokes and the proposed of the province of the province

from conditions like strokes and spinal cord injuries, said Professor John Wong Eu Li, chief executive of the National University Health Sys-tem (NUHS). He was speaking at the programme's launch event, which was held at Alexandra Hospi-tal westerday

which was held at Alexandra Hospi-talyesterday.
Robot-assisted devices are in-creasingly helping therapists to provide high-intensity, repetitive and task-specific treatment, which is hard for patients to achieve once the are discharged from hospital, which is the leading cause of long-term disability and loss of mo-bility here. The number of new cases every year has risen from 5,500 to 7,400 over the last decade.

Three exoskeletons will be shared by the NUHS' five partner sites: Alexandra Hospital, NTUC Health, St Luke's ElderCare and St Luke's Hospital and the Stroke Support Station.

port Station.

NUHS is the first national health system in Asia to study how advanced exoskeleton technology can improve mobility and rehabilitation outcomes across the care



The suit allows for more consistent practice of the joint movements because the motors at the hip, knee and ankle can be adjusted according to how much assistance the patient needs from the machine.



