



Essential Competencies for Specialists in Oral Medicine as defined by the Oral Medicine Academy of Australasia.

The Oral Medicine Academy of Australasia believes that all specialists wishing to obtain full registration with AHPRA in Oral Medicine should possess the specialist-specific competencies listed below.

The Academy believes that the Oral Medicine specialist should possess an accredited and recognised general dental qualification, a minimum of 2 years' practice in general clinical dentistry, and have completed training of no less than 3 years' full-time duration at an accredited, peer-reviewed training program in Oral Medicine in Australia or New Zealand which satisfies the competencies listed below.

The competencies outlined below are defined in terms of the scope of practice of Oral Medicine in Australia and New Zealand, and the current definition of Oral Medicine as prescribed by the Oral Medicine Academy of Australasia which states that *“Oral Medicine is that specialist branch of dentistry concerned with the diagnosis, prevention and predominantly non-surgical management of medically-related disorders and conditions affecting the oral and maxillofacial region, in particular oral mucosal disease and orofacial pain, as well as the oral health care of medically complex patients.”*

Essential Competencies for Specialists in Oral Medicine

1. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to elicit, record and interpret an accurate history from patients of any age within the scope of Oral Medicine practice.
2. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to perform an appropriate clinical examination on patients of any age within the scope of Oral Medicine practice.
3. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to select and request (and in some instances undertake) appropriate and relevant investigations within the scope of Oral Medicine practice.
4. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to interpret and where necessary seek clarification on the meaning of a range of laboratory and imaging investigation results to inform subsequent patient care.
5. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to undertake specialist assessment and management of a patient of any age within the scope of Oral Medicine practice, in both an outpatient and inpatient hospital setting.
6. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to undertake safe and effective prescription of drugs.
7. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to undertake safely and effectively, operative techniques as definitive management of localised benign disease; or to establish a tissue diagnosis, including where oral soft tissue malignancy is suspected.
8. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to describe the appropriate application of operative techniques in other relevant situations.

9. The Oral Medicine Specialist will possess knowledge of the structure and function in health of lips and oral soft tissues.
10. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to correlate health of the lips and oral soft tissues to disease states and use this insight to inform patient care.
11. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to undertake specialist assessment and management of oral soft tissue disease.
12. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to investigate, diagnose and manage patients with oral soft tissue disease with a hypersensitivity basis.
13. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to diagnose and manage viral, bacterial, fungal and other infections of the oral soft tissues.
14. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to describe the structure and function in health of salivary glands and saliva.
15. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to correlate health of salivary gland tissues to disease states and use this insight to inform patient care.
16. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to diagnose and appropriately manage patients presenting with disorders of major and minor salivary glands.
17. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to describe the structure and function in health of the nervous system.
18. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to correlate health of the nervous system to disease states and use this insight to inform patient care.
19. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to diagnose and appropriately manage patients presenting with orofacial pain of odontogenic and non-odontogenic origin.
20. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to diagnose and appropriately manage patients presenting with altered cranial nerve function related or unrelated to other neurological abnormalities.
21. The Oral Medicine Specialist will relate health and disease of orofacial tissues to other relevant body systems where appropriate.
22. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to diagnose and appropriately manage patients presenting with temporomandibular joint disorders.
23. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to diagnose and appropriately manage neuropathic orofacial pain.
24. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to diagnose and appropriately manage primary and secondary neurovascular pain in patients with orofacial pain.
25. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to diagnose and manage orofacial movement disorders.
26. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to recognise and appropriately manage patients presenting with sleep disorders.
27. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to provide oral appliance therapy for patients with sleep disordered breathing.
28. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to provide advice on medical disease to dental practitioners and patients and on specific oral implications of disease to medical practitioners.
29. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to develop a management plan for chronic disease, including self-care and the use of a supportive multidisciplinary team.
30. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to recall adverse drug reactions to commonly used drugs and recall drugs requiring therapeutic drug monitoring.
31. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to establish effective communication with relevant teams by means appropriate to the urgency of the situation.

32. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to identify serious or incidental psychiatric morbidity in patients presenting with oral disease.
33. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to recognise, manage and where required provide basic and immediate life support for adult and paediatric medical emergencies, in line with accepted Australian/New Zealand guidelines.
34. The Oral Medicine Specialist will be able to minimise risk of, recognise, assess and treat other acutely unwell adult and paediatric patients including simple faint, postoperative bleeding, hyperventilation, angina, myocardial infarction, acute asthma, anaphylaxis, diabetic emergencies, seizures and adrenal insufficiency.
35. The Oral Medicine Specialist will demonstrate the ability to participate and contribute to research.
36. The Oral Medicine Specialist should be able to demonstrate knowledge of the principles of management within healthcare.
37. The Oral Medicine Specialist will demonstrate appropriate time management and decision making skills.
38. The Oral Medicine Specialist will understand the principles of evidence based practice and life-long learning.
39. The Oral Medicine Specialist will ensure patient safety as a priority.
40. The Oral Medicine Specialist will work effectively with colleagues as part of a healthcare team.
41. The Oral Medicine Specialist will understand the principles of quality and safety improvement.