

## GUIDELINES FOR OPERATING MOBILE DENTAL SERVICES

1. Starting Mobile Dental Clinic services as a standalone service must not be allowed. Such a mobile unit must be attached to a dental clinic/hospital that has been registered with the appropriate local self-government authority (Panchayat/Municipality/ Corporation).
2. Private Practitioners/Clinics/Hospitals must refrain from using such services for unethical advertisements/promotions contrary to the provisions in Dentists (Code of Ethics) Regulations, 2014.
3. The Dental Council of India has not formulated any basic standards for Mobile dental clinics to be operated by individual private dental clinics. However, the Kerala Dental Council modified the minimum requirements of mobile dental clinics for dental colleges for use by Individuals/Private Dental Clinics as follows:
  - i. A clear distinction must be made between ambulances and mobile dental vans. Ambulances are vehicles used for transporting sick/ disabled/bedridden patients to hospitals. Such vehicles must not be used for providing home-based dental care or palliative oral care.
  - ii. Vehicles so designed to function as mobile dental clinics must get all mandatory clearance/registration from the Regional Transport Office (RTO). Annual maintenance/renewal of license from RTO must be ensured.
  - iii. The mobile dental van must be equipped with at least one functional portable dental chair and dental unit (compressor, scaler, airtor, 3-way syringe, and suction).
  - iv. All such mobile dental clinics must be equipped with essential drugs, oxygen cylinders, and appropriately trained personnel to manage medical emergencies.
  - v. All dental procedures in such mobile units must be performed in an aseptic environment ensuring the use of sterilized instruments. Appropriate disinfection practices must be followed.

- vi. Appropriate Biomedical waste management principles must be followed by such clinics following BMW Rules 2016.
4. Such services need to be incorporated in the Clinical Establishment bill. The formulation of such guidelines will help to determine the jurisdiction of mobile services and help in ensuring minimum clinical/ethical standards of practice using mobile dental clinics. In addition, such regulations must incorporate a provision for annual renewal of registration similar to that currently being provided for dental clinics/hospitals. This will ensure proper annual maintenance of mobile dental services and thereby ensure the quality of services offered.



  
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