

tooth whitening



DENTISTS V'S BEAUTICIANS

the facts...



Only **registered** dentists, dental therapists, dental hygienists and clinical dental technicians, working to the prescription of a dentist, can perform tooth whitening.



Beauticians can not diagnose dental disease or worse, oral cancer and therefore must not be providing tooth whitening to clients.



Attending a tooth whitening training course **does not** in itself allow an individual to provide tooth whitening



The chemicals used to whiten the teeth, could **permanently damage the teeth**. To protect the public against this type of damage, the person providing the treatment **must be fully dentally qualified and registered with the General Dental Council (GDC)**.



Tooth whitening is a practice of dentistry. This means that tooth whitening is a dental treatment and not a cosmetic treatment.



The Dentists Act makes it **illegal** for anyone who is not a dentist **to give "treatment, advice or attendance" that would usually be given by a dentist.** Handing an individual a tooth whitening tray and advising them on application, amongst other things, could constitute the giving of "advice or attendance" and would be illegal.



Beauticians are unlikely to be able to ensure complete gingival protection from the concentrated products they are applying to the teeth which can result in **severe burns to the gums following whitening.** Many beauticians are using a high concentration of Hydrogen Peroxide and a light to lighten teeth. However some are even using Chlorine Dioxide to whiten teeth.



Many beauticians are offering tooth whitening when this is not the case. **The products some beauticians use cannot whiten teeth, at best they are a cleaning agent.**

Anyone considering having tooth whitening should see their GDC registered dentist so they can assess whether treatment would be right or appropriate for them.