



DENTAL NURSE (INTEGRATED)

Details of standard

Occupation summary

This occupation is found in healthcare under the profession of dentistry. Dental nurses work in a clinical environment that could be located in a NHS general dental practice, hospital, private dental practice, specialist dental practice, community dental service or military dental clinic. The clinical environment is called a dental surgery and consists of a dental chair, x-ray unit and various equipment and instruments required for dentistry. An apprentice will predominately work with a dentist, dental hygienist, dental therapist, clinical dental technician or orthodontic therapist within a surgery environment with patients attending throughout the day.

The broad purpose of the occupation is to provide chair side support to all dental professionals and ensure high standards of cleanliness and infection control. Dental nurses prepare instruments, materials and medicaments for dental procedures, mix materials, sterilise instruments, keep records, note dictation, carry out stock control and ensure patient comfort and safety throughout their visit.

In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with patients of all ages, other members of the dental team, other health professionals and representatives of organisations providing support services to the setting. Depending on the dental setting the dental nurse could also interact with schools, the prison service, community dental service, individuals in their own homes and those in care home settings.

An employee in this occupation will be responsible for providing care for people of all ages, different backgrounds, cultures and beliefs within a variety of clinical environments. Dental nurses must ensure that they only carry out a task, treatment or make decisions about a patient's care if they are appropriately trained, competent, indemnified and have the necessary skills. Dental nurses are registered professionals and work within the standards and scope of practice as defined by the General Dental Council Scope of Practice document.

Typical job titles include:

Dental nurse

Occupation duties

DUTY	KSBS
Duty 1 Work to current best practice for dental nurses	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K9 K10 K11 S1 S2 S3 S4 S5 S6 B1 B2
Duty 2 Use appropriate communication maintaining professionalism at all times and through all media to provide patient-centred care	K12 K13 K14 S7 S8 S9 S10 S11 B1 B2
Duty 3 Prepare and maintain the clinical environment	K15 K16 K17 S12 S13 S14 B1
Duty 4 Carry out infection control procedures	K18 K19 K20 K21 S15 B1
Duty 5 Prepare, mix and handle materials	K22 K23 K24 S13 S16 B1
Duty 6 Keep accurate and current patient records	K13 K25 K26 S11 S17 B1 B2
Duty 7 Prepare equipment and materials for dental radiographs	K27 K28 K29 S18 S19 B1
Duty 8 Give appropriate oral and general health advice to patients	K5 K30 S20 B1 B2

Duty 9 Recognise and deal with medical emergencies	K31 K32 K33 K34 S21 S22 B1 B2
Duty 10 Take responsibility for your own professional development in line with General Dental Council requirements	K1 K4 K35 K36 K37 S23 S24 S25 S26 B1 B2
Duty 11 Contribute to the quality improvement of the service	K6 K38 K39 K40 S27 S28 B1 B2

KSBs

Knowledge

K1: Know and understand the General Dental Council Scope of Practice and Standards for the Dental Team for your role as a dental nurse and that of others in the team

K2: Know and understand legislation, policy and procedures related to your role as a dental nurse

K3: Know and understand the wider dental and healthcare system that dental nurses work in

K4: Know and understand the principles relating to evidence-based approaches to learning, clinical, professional practice and decision-making

K5: Know and understand the basic principles of a population healthcare approach including safeguarding, oral and general healthcare and your duty of care

K6: Know and understand how to raise concerns as described in the current General Dental Council guidance

K7: Know and understand dental and regional anatomy

K8: Know and understand the respiratory and circulatory system

K9: Know and understand legal and ethical responsibilities involved in protecting and promoting the health of individual patients

K10: Know and understand duty of candour

K11: Know and understand the principals of preventative dentistry

K12: Know and understand a range of communication methods, including verbal and non-verbal, listening skills, being aware of the barriers to communication and of how to check you have been understood

- K13:** Know and understand the importance of maintaining confidentiality and protecting all data relating to patients and their treatment
- K14:** Know and understand the importance of gaining patient consent
- K15:** Know and understand the equipment, instruments and materials used to provide chairside support to dental professionals, and operate in the clinical environment
- K16:** Know and understand how to assess, reduce and manage risks as outlined in current best practice guidelines
- K17:** Know and understand how to raise concerns that affect the running of the clinical environment in line with local policy and procedures
- K18:** Know and understand the potential routes of transmission of infectious agents in dental practice
- K19:** Know and understand the mechanisms for the prevention of infection
- K20:** Know and understand the scientific principles of decontamination and disinfection and their relevance to health & safety
- K21:** Know and understand local infection control protocols and your own responsibilities
- K22:** Know and understand the appropriate materials for different treatments
- K23:** Know and understand how to prepare materials in line with manufacturers recommendations
- K24:** Know and understand Health & Safety legislation relating to dental materials and other medication
- K25:** Know and understand the importance of maintaining accurate and current patient records in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements
- K26:** Know and understand the principles of information governance
- K27:** Know and understand the scientific principles of medical ionising radiation
- K28:** Know and understand the statutory regulations in relation to radiography
- K29:** Know and understand the different types of radiographs used in dentistry including how to process and store them
- K30:** Know and understand contributing factors that can impact on oral and general health
- K31:** Know and understand a range of conditions that could contribute to medical emergencies
- K32:** Know and understand the principles of First aid in the workplace
- K33:** Know and understand the regulatory requirements regarding documentation of medical emergencies and first aid incidents
- K34:** Know and understand your own competence and limitations in dealing with medical emergencies
- K35:** Know and understand ways to maintain your professional knowledge and competence including reflecting on your own practice

K36: Know and understand the importance of appraisal, training and ongoing review including ways to give and receive feedback

K37: Know and understand the consequences of own professional actions, attitudes and behaviours and their effect on own registration, other registrants, the dental team, the workplace and public opinion

K38: Know and understand audit and quality improvement processes

K39: Know and understand health and safety policy related to your role as a dental nurse

K40: Know and understand the importance of maintaining your own network of dental professionals and other stakeholders involved in the care and support of patients

Skills

S1: Adhere to legal and ethical responsibilities in line with General Dental Council requirements

S2: Take responsibility for the integrity of own actions and completed work, recognising the limits of your competence and experience

S3: Comply with current best practice guidelines

S4: Put patients' interests first and act to protect them by working in a patient-centred way

S5: Effectively manage own time and resources

S6: Provide chair side support during dental procedures

S7: Monitor, support and reassure patients throughout all aspects of their treatment, ensuring patient-centred care

S8: Communicate appropriately, effectively and sensitively at all times and through all media

S9: Respect patients' dignity and choices and act without discrimination

S10: Check that valid consent is obtained for all treatments and personal care delivery

S11: Maintain patient confidentiality at all times

S12: Work in the clinical environment in a safe and efficient manner

S13: Select and prepare the correct equipment, instruments and materials

S14: Carry out and record maintenance and testing of equipment in line with local policy, procedures and the scope of your own role

S15: Manage and perform effective decontamination and infection control procedures complying with legislative, local and current best practice guidelines

S16: Mix, handle, store and dispose of materials in line with manufacturers recommendations

S17: Create and update accurate and current patient records, including social, medical and dental history, storing and archiving them securely and in line with legislation

- S18:** Carry out processing of radiographs in line with local procedures and rules
- S19:** Make effective decisions regarding the safety of patients when taking a radiograph
- S20:** Deliver appropriate and current evidence-based oral and general health advice
- S21:** Recognise and support action to deal with medical emergencies
- S22:** Respond to medical emergencies and be competent in cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- S23:** Take part in appraisal and ongoing review processes
- S24:** Take part in continuous professional development activities
- S25:** Reflect on how your daily practice complies with the General Dental Council requirements for continual improvement
- S26:** Comply with personal development planning as specified by the General Dental Council
- S27:** Participate in quality improvement activities as required
- S28:** Be collaborative and work as part of the team

Behaviours

- B1:** Act in a manner consistent with the GDC standards for the dental team which include communication, professionalism, teamwork and clinical skills
- B2:** Act in a non-discriminatory manner respecting diversity and upholding the rights, dignity and autonomy of others

Qualifications

English & Maths

Apprentices without level 2 English and maths will need to achieve this level prior to taking the End-Point Assessment. For those with an education, health and care plan or a legacy statement, the apprenticeship's English and maths minimum requirement is Entry Level 3. A British Sign Language (BSL) qualification is an alternative to the English qualification for those whose primary language is BSL.

Other mandatory qualifications

A level 3 qualification which has been approved by the General Dental Council as meeting the requirements for entry to the professional register as a dental nurse.

Level: 3

Additional details

Regulated standard

This is a regulated occupation.

Regulator body:

General Dental Council

EPAO must be approved by regulator body

Occupational Level:

3

Duration (months):

18

Review

This apprenticeship standard will be reviewed after three years

Version log

VERSION	CHANGE DETAIL	EARLIEST START DATE	LATEST START DATE	LATEST END DATE
1.3	End-point assessment plan revised.	01/07/2022	Not set	Not set
1.2	Standard and end-point assessment plan revised.	02/12/2020	30/06/2022	Not set
1.1	The funding band for this standard has been reviewed as part of the apprenticeship funding band review. The new funding band is £6000	03/10/2018	01/12/2020	Not set
1.0	Retired	12/11/2015	02/10/2018	Not set