

January 2017 Proposal to develop a new apprenticeship standard

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Q1. Name of proposed trailblazer group

Dental Health

Q2. Please state if this is a new or existing trailblazer group. If existing please give details of which standards you are already working on.

Existing trailblazer group but the work on the proposed standards will be undertaken by two sub-groups

Q3. Please confirm that you have read the Trailblazer Guidance on gov.uk and are content that your proposal meets all the criteria for approval

Yes I have

Q4. Number of standards proposed for development. Please be aware that commitment from at least 10 employer members for each proposed standard is required

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Q5. Please insert details about each proposed standard below.

	Name of occupation covered by the proposed standard	Do you intend to include a degree in the standard?	Estimated overall annual take up across England	When do you estimate this apprenticeship would be ready to deliver starts?
1	Oral Health Practitioner	No	500	Sept 2018
2	Clinical Dental Technician	No	70	Sept 2018
3	-	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-
6	-	-	-	-

Q6. Please provide a clear description of the occupation(s) covered by the proposed standard(s) and what it involves, at a minimum setting out: the main duties, responsibilities and high level competencies required; the scope and limits of the occupation i.e. be clear what it does not involve; who else would this occupation typically work with / relationship between roles If this standard is intended as a 'core with options' please confirm and provide detail of the individual sub-occupations planned (Guidance paragraph 62)

The High level knowledge and skills for the two occupations are listed separately below.

Oral Health Practitioner

Knowledge

- a detailed understanding of general health systems and their relationship to oral health
- a detailed understanding of head and neck anatomy, physiology, dental caries, oral medicine and periodontal disease and their treatments and how this relates to working in the mouth
- a detailed understanding of diet, nutrition, hydration, and their links with systemic and oral health
- a detailed understanding of differing patients group needs including across different age groups, those with learning disabilities, those with mental health conditions or dementia
- a detailed understanding of behaviour change and the theories that underpin models learning in individuals and groups to change behaviour
- theories and concepts of motivational interviewing
- how to support behaviour change with individuals (e.g. in dental surgery) and with carers, in schools and care homes) and on a group basis

Skills

- working unsupervised in the mouth to take dental bacterial plaque and food debris scores
- working in the mouth to take impressions
- working in the mouth to apply topical fluoride
- intra and extra oral radiography and photography.
- carrying out brief clinical preventive advice interventions and targeted group interventions
- provide both oral and general systemic health advice e.g. smoking cessation, diet advice
- able to provide behaviour change advice and support to individuals and groups across all ages and with different cognitive abilities
- provide motivational interviews
- undertake health Screening including, for example checking for diabetes and blood pressure, and the taking of blood for blood tests.

Clinical Dental Technician

In order to become a Clinical Dental Technician, you must undertake further study to develop extensive new skills and knowledge in order work directly with patients (Dental Technicians are laboratory based and have little or no contact with patients). Clinical Dental Technicians are a separately regulated occupation with the General Dental Council and are required to develop additional:

Knowledge

- Theories and concepts of patient assessment (endentulous patient)
- Patient and public safety including relevant regulations in regard to dental radiography
- Health promotion and disease prevention
- Population based healthcare
- the aging process and oral health
- dental, oral and general anatomy and physiology in regard to patient management
- Diagnosis (endentulous patient)
- Treatment planning (endentulous patient)

Skills

- Contribute to and/ or undertake patient assessment (endentulous patient) including taking detailed dental history and relevant medical history
- Responding to treatment plans
- Patient management including maintaining patient records
- Treatment of acute oral conditions including prescribing and providing complete dentures direct to patients
- Replacement teeth including providing and fitting other dental devices on prescription from a dentist
- Performing technical and clinical procedures related to providing removable dental appliances
- Taking and processing radiographs and other images related to providing removable dental appliances
- referring patients to other healthcare professionals if necessary

The Clinical Dental Technician is also required to meet standards of competence in regard to communication, professionalism and management and leadership in the context of their practice as a regulated healthcare professional.

Q7. Have you submitted a proposal for an apprenticeship standard in this occupation(s) before? If yes provide details and outline how this proposal differs.

Yes

Details of previous application(s):

Expressions of interest for both occupations originally submitted in August 2016.

Do you intend for the standard(s) to replace or partly replace any existing apprenticeship frameworks? If yes provide details.

No

Q8. Do you expect any age restrictions to apply to this standard? If yes, please state why (bearing in mind apprenticeships cannot be undertaken by anyone under the age of 16)

Oral Health Practitioner is minimum age 18yrs and Clinical Dental Technician is 21yrs due to having to undertake training and practice as a Dental Technician before training to be a CDT

Q9. Please provide information that demonstrates the proposal is for a recognised, standalone occupation, for which there is genuine demand in the job market and where further training, beyond the apprenticeship, is not required for full competence. For example: any informal consultation already undertaken to evidence wider support, employment statistics etc (supporting documents can be uploaded at the end of the application)

Oral Health Practitioner

In order to provide dental and oral health services in response to NHS England's '5 Year Forward View' published by NHSE in October 2014; Health Education England has been tasked with supporting employers to develop a new role that is designed to deliver both oral health education and promotion to the public. This role will be a progression route for Dental Nurses. We have considered direct entry but there are activities that the Oral Health Practitioner will undertake that are regulated (such as preparing and maintaining a clinical environment, infection control and prevention, and preparing, mixing and handling bio-materials) so the individual must already be on the General Dental Council register. However, achieving competence in this occupation would require significant new skills and knowledge. Some of these knowledge and skills will overlap with other dental occupations but also the wider health sector. In order to provide integrated healthcare to the population it is necessary to provide the same knowledge and skills to a variety of healthcare professionals but it is how these are 'packaged' along with the unique Knowledge Skills and Behaviours that make the occupation. For example, the skills and knowledge required to provide 'brief interventions' are now common across a range of very different healthcare occupations as people come into contact with health professionals in a very wide variety of settings and contexts e.g. Dentists, Pharmacy, GP Practice etc. Whilst the Oral Health Practitioner may be working from a dental practice as their base, their focus will be on the community that practice serves. They will have a high degree of autonomy, and will work unsupervised in the community, with primary and secondary schools, in care homes, in "care at home" situations, in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health arena and with pre-school groups and healthcare assistants.

Clinical Dental Technician

All Dental health professionals from Dentist to Dental Nurse have to work to a common set of Standards for the Dental Team published by the General Dental Council. Each dental occupation then has its own specific scope of practice which sets out the skills and knowledge required to be competent in the specific occupation. In the case of Clinical Dental Technicians these competences can only be acquired once the individual is already a registered Dental Technician.

As noted the role of Clinical Dental Technician is statutorily regulated by the General Dental Council and both occupations are Department of Health priorities.

Q10. Please provide information that confirms the proposed occupation is unique and does not significantly overlap with occupations covered by any approved standards or standards in development. Where there is potential for overlap you must speak to the existing Trailblazer(s) before submitting your proposal, and outline the results of any discussion you have had to determine the extent of overlap and why you have still opted to propose the development of this standard. The existing list of standards in development, is here [The list of existing published standards and Trailblazer contact details, is here](#)

We have reviewed the standards that have already been developed and those in development within dental and healthcare and are satisfied that there is no duplication with our bid for either proposed standard.

Q11. Please provide information that demonstrates that the occupation will require rigorous and substantial training of at least a year, with 20% off-the-job. For example: detail of the technical skills required or an overview of any existing training programmes or modules. Please also confirm the typical length of time you expect the apprenticeship to take for someone new to the occupation

Oral Health Practitioner

We have also reviewed the level and duration of the training for the role and propose that it is at Level 4. The training will require rigorous and substantial training of 12 - 18 months with a minimum of 30% off-the-job. Progression from an Oral Health Practitioner would be into Dental Hygienist or Therapist.

Clinical Dental Technician

The occupation requires rigorous and substantial training of no less than 24 months to achieve full competence with a minimum of 20% will be off-the-job training. Clinical Dental Technicians currently complete a Diploma in Higher Education to meet the General Dental Council registration requirements.

The Standard provides a progression from the Dental Technician Apprenticeship.

Q12. Please provide information that demonstrates how the occupation is at a sufficiently high level to allow the successful apprentice to develop transferable skills that will enable them to perform this role in a business of any size or relevant sector. For example: highlight the main transferable skills, the range of sectors/environments someone in this occupation could work in

Oral Health Practitioners and Clinical Dental Technicians would only work in the health sector but will be employed in both the NHS and independent sector.