



## Job Families

There are a variety of roles in the Dental sector. Providing dental care is a team responsibility, and each member of the dental team has a vital role to play in the promotion and maintenance of dental health. The majority of Dental Professionals are usually found outside hospitals, working in local communities and high street practices providing care to the general public. With an excellent knowledge of human anatomy and oral disease, they use the best clinical skills to help their patients.



## Dental



## Level 3 Dental Nurse

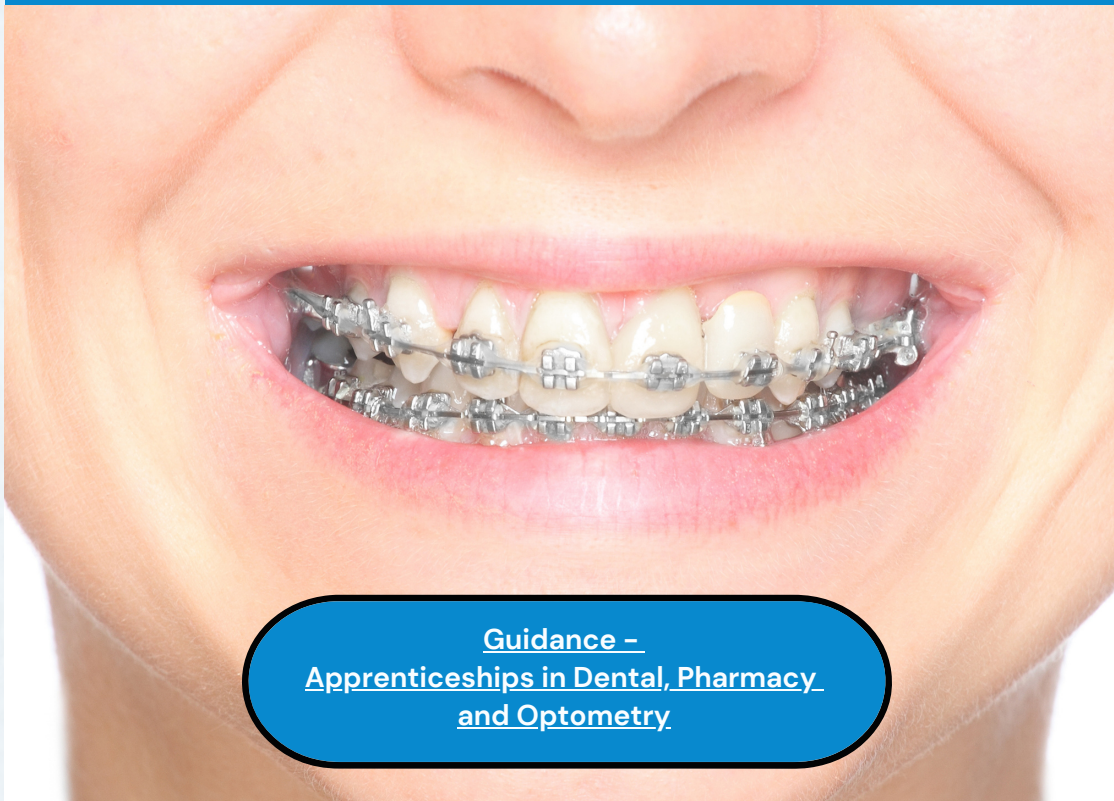
Dental nurses work in a clinical environment that could be located in a NHS general dental practice, hospital, private dental practice, specialist dental practice, community dental service or military dental clinic. The clinical environment is called a dental surgery and consists of a dental chair, x-ray 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.

**Entry Requirements:** The employer, in partnership with the training provider, will determine the selection criteria for apprentices. Apprentices without level 2 English and maths will need to achieve this level prior to taking the end-point assessment.

**Qualifications:** Apprentices must complete 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. All apprentices must also pass the apprenticeship end-point assessment.



**Case Study –**  
**Lauren Cork – Level 3 Dental Nurse**  
**(integrated) apprentice**



**Guidance –**  
**Apprenticeships in Dental, Pharmacy**  
**and Optometry**

## Level 4 Orthodontic Therapist

An Orthodontic Therapist is a registered professional who fits, adjusts and removes braces to patient's teeth, working to the prescription of an orthodontist or dentist competent in orthodontics. They provide holistic advice on maintaining oral and general health for patients who are undergoing orthodontic treatment. In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with patients of all ages who present with dental malocclusions, the wider orthodontic and dental team, parents, guardians and carers.

**Entry Requirements:** Must be registered on the General Dental Council Register as a registered dental nurse, dental hygienist, dental therapist or dental technician. Employers usually require applicants to have a period of clinical post-qualification experience (usually at least 2 years).

**Qualifications:** Apprentices must complete a level 4 Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy accredited by the General Dental Council. Apprentices without level 2 English and maths will need to achieve this level prior to taking the end-point assessment



## Level 4 Dental Practice Manager

The Practice Manager is responsible for managing all non-clinical aspects within a specified practice/s to achieve excellent patient care, quality, cost and delivery performance in line with practice strategy, goals and values. The Practice Manager leads the team by providing support and direction to enhance performance, skills and knowledge of all practice staff.

**Entry Requirements:** The employer, in partnership with the training provider, will determine the selection criteria for apprentices. Apprentices without level 2 English and maths will need to achieve this level prior to taking the end-point assessment

**Qualifications:** Apprentices must complete a Level 4 Qualification – Certificate in Leadership & Management and go through a Performance Management (PM) process.

If the employers feels that there is evidence of higher academic aptitude, the apprentice could opt for a more demanding higher level qualification that would enable fast tracking through the progression routes available on completion of this apprenticeship.



## Level 4 Oral Health Practitioner

Oral Health Practitioners have a high degree of autonomy and have responsibility for working directly with patients performing a range of oral health preventive procedure which involve working in a patient's mouth. The Oral Health Practitioner role complements the role of other dental professionals and fits in the dental career structure a higher level than a dental nurse but below a dental hygienist, hygienist / therapist or dentist. Working to the direction of a dentist they take dental bacterial plaque indices and debris scores, apply fluoride varnish, take clinical photographs, take impressions and carry out tooth brushing in the patient's mouth.

**Entry Requirements:** To become an Oral Health Practitioner, you must already be a dental nurse or other appropriate registered dental care professional with the General Dental Council.

**Qualifications:** Apprentices without level 2 English and maths will need to achieve this level prior to completing the end-point assessment.



**Becoming an Oral Health Practitioner –  
Real life stories**



## Level 5 Dental Technician

Dental Technicians design, manufacture, modify and repair custom-made dental appliances. Typically the work is undertaken in a dental laboratory on a prescription from a dentist. The work can broadly be split into crown & bridge, dentures and orthodontics; most labs specialise in one or two of these areas but during the apprenticeship, Dental Technicians will develop competency across all disciplines from start to finish before choosing if/where to specialise once they are qualified.

**Entry Requirements:** Individual employers will set the selection criteria for their apprentices. Most candidates will have A levels or existing relevant Level 3 qualifications. Other relevant or prior experience may also be considered as an alternative.

**Qualifications:** Apprentices must complete a Level 5 Foundation Degree Science in Dental Technology. Apprentices without level 2 English and maths will need to achieve this level prior to completing the end-point assessment



## Level 5 Clinical Dental Technician

Clinical Dental Technicians (CDT) are General Dental Council (GDC) registered dental professionals who provide a complete dentures direct to patients and other dental devices such as partial dentures to the prescription of a dentist. The CDT role fits between that of a dental technician and a dentist. Like a dental technician, they are able to make dentures in a laboratory but, unlike a dental technician, they have direct contact with patients. Like a dentist, they are able to work in the mouth, taking impressions for the edentulous, dentate or patient with implants. However, they are not able to prescribe to patients who have teeth and therefore work to prescriptions from the dentist as required.

**Entry Requirements:** Individual employers will set the selection criteria for their apprentices. You must be a GDC registered dental technician to do this apprenticeship.

**Qualifications:** Apprentices must complete a General Dental Council approved Level 5 qualification. Apprentices without level 2 English and maths will need to achieve this level prior to taking the end-point assessment.





## Level 6 Enhanced Clinical Practitioner (ECP)

This occupation is found in the health and care sector. Enhanced Clinical Practitioners are qualified health and social care professionals who are working at an enhanced level of practice with specific knowledge and skills in a field of expertise. They manage a discrete aspect of a patient's care within their current level of practice, which will be particular to a specific context, be it a client group, a skill set or an organisational context. This is in contrast to Advanced Clinical Practitioners who have developed their knowledge and skills to an advanced level of practice and would manage the whole episode of a patient's clinical care, from the time they first present, through to the end of the episode.

**Entry Requirements:** ECPs must be registered with either one of the statutory healthcare regulators, Social Work England or with one of the following accredited voluntary registers: The Academy for Healthcare Science, Register of Clinical Technologists or Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists. They must undertake revalidation processes or audit of their continuing professional development where these apply.

**Qualifications:** Apprentices without level 2 English and maths will need to achieve this level prior to completing the end-point assessment.



## Level 7 Advanced Clinical Practitioner

Advanced Clinical Practitioners are experienced clinicians who demonstrate expertise in their scope of practice. Advanced Clinical Practitioners manage defined episodes of clinical care independently, from beginning to end, providing care and treatment from the time an individual first presents through to the end of the episode, which may include admission, referral or discharge or care at home. They carry out their full range of duties in relation to individuals' physical and mental healthcare and in acute, primary, urgent and emergency settings (including hospitals, general practice, individuals' homes, schools and prisons, and in the public, independent, private and charity sectors)

**Entry Requirements:** Apprentices will already hold current registration with one of the statutory regulators of health and care professions.

**Qualifications:** Apprentices must complete a Master's degree in Advanced Clinical Practice. Apprentices without level 2 English and maths will need to achieve this level prior to taking the end-point assessment.





## Training Providers:

All providers who want to deliver apprenticeship training must be on the Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers (RoATP). Employers must choose a provider from the Register. Providers must meet a clear set of criteria in order to be included on the Register. These include financial health, capacity/capability and quality criteria. If a provider does not meet these criteria they will not be included on the Register.

Click on the below links for a list of registered providers for each standard:

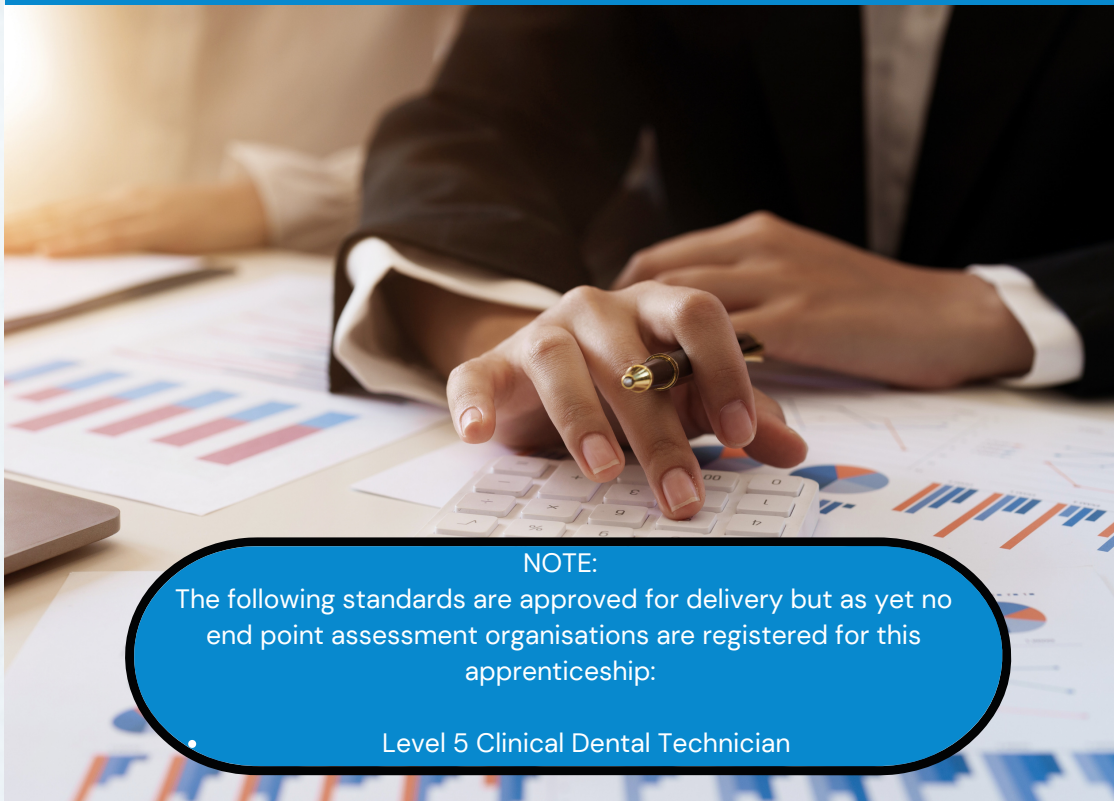
- [Level 3 Dental Nurse](#)
- [Level 3 Laboratory Technician](#)
- [Level 4 Dental Practice Manager](#)
- [Level 4 Oral Health Practitioner](#)
- [Level 4 Orthodontic Therapist](#)
- [Level 5 Dental Technician](#)
- [Level 7 Advanced Clinical Practitioner](#)



### NOTE:

The following standards are approved for delivery but as yet no training providers are registered to offer the apprenticeship:

Level 5 Clinical Dental Technician  
Level 6 Enhanced Clinical Practitioner



### NOTE:

The following standards are approved for delivery but as yet no end point assessment organisations are registered for this apprenticeship:

Level 5 Clinical Dental Technician

## End Point Assessment

As part of their apprenticeship, apprentices will have to complete end-point assessment. The end-point assessment organisation will assess the apprentice in line with the Assessment Plan. This ensures that all apprentices are assessed holistically to a consistent standard at the end of their apprenticeship. Organisations offering end-point assessment will need to be registered on the Register of End-Point Assessment Organisations (RoEPAO).

Click on the links for EPAOs registered for each apprenticeship standard:

- [Level 3 Dental Nurse](#)
- [Level 3 Laboratory Technician](#)
- [Level 4 Dental Practice Manager](#)
- [Level 4 Oral Health Practitioner](#)
- [Level 4 Orthodontic Therapist](#)
- [Level 5 Dental Technician](#)
- [Level 6 Enhanced Clinical Practitioner](#)
- [Level 7 Advanced Clinical Practitioner](#)

<https://haso.skillsforhealth.org.uk/>



## Applying and Further Advice

Candidates interested in applying for any of these apprenticeships should visit [NHS Jobs](#), [Find an Apprenticeship website](#) and the [Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers](#). It may also be worth contacting training providers directly to make enquiries about the apprenticeships they offer.

An apprentice will be over 16 and may earn more than the minimum apprenticeship wage. Pay is determined locally so whilst it may be higher, it cannot be lower than this amount. [Click here](#) for more information on apprentice pay.

Visit our [Dental](#) page for further advice and guidance.

Alternatively, visit the Dental Team section on the [Health Careers](#) website which has guidance including working life, rates of pay and career development.

Our [Apprenticeship Costing Calculator / Planning Tools](#) will help you calculate how much taking on an apprentice will cost.



### Case Study Meet the Chairs: Dental Trailblazer



Dental  
Trailblazer  
Chairs



# HASO

The HASO website has tools designed to help employers embed their apprenticeships, see resources below:

- [Toolkit](#) – The toolkit is designed to support employers through the process, end to end, from setting out employers organisational strategy right through to when the apprentices are in the workplace.
- [Pathways tool](#) – The pathways tool can be used to view different roles and how to move from one apprenticeship occupation to another.
- [Costing Calculator tool](#) – The calculator tool can be used to work out the potential cost of delivering apprenticeships.



# Dental

