



Why Work as a... Dental Nurse

A solution for your training needs and career progression

ROLE OVERVIEW

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.

KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENTS

- 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
- Know and understand the basic principles of a population healthcare approach including safeguarding, oral and general healthcare and your duty of care
- Know and understand dental and regional anatomy
- Know and understand the principals of preventative dentistry
- Know and understand the importance of gaining patient consent

SKILL REQUIREMENTS

- Monitor, support and reassure patients throughout all aspects of their treatment, ensuring patient-centred care
- Manage and perform effective decontamination and infection control procedures complying with legislative, local and current best practice guidelines
- Create and update accurate and current patient records, including social, medical and dental history, storing and archiving them securely and in line with legislation
- Reflect on how your daily practice complies with the General Dental Council requirements for continual improvement
- Participate in quality improvement activities as required
- Be collaborative and work as part of the team

BEHAVIOUR REQUIREMENTS

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

KEY POINTS

- **Level:** 3
- **Duration:** 48 months + End Point Assessment
- **Entry requirements:** You may be required to undertake training in maths and English. See [HERE](#) for more information
- **Career progression:** This apprenticeship provides an ideal entry into the occupation and supports progression within the sector

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