



**Dental Nurse
Level 3
Apprenticeship Standard**

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Overview

Dental nurses work in a clinical environment that could be located in an NHS general dental practice, hospital, private dental practice, specialist dental practice, community dental service or military dental clinic. An apprentice will predominately work with a dentist, dental hygienist, dental therapist or therapist within a surgery environment.

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 and materials for dental procedures, mix materials, sterilise instruments, keep records, note dictation, carry out stock control and ensure patient comfort and safety throughout their visit and adhere to the General Dental Council standards and professionalism.



Duration:

18 months + 3 months for the End Point Assessment

Entry Guidelines:

English & maths at GCSE grade A*-E/4-9 or Functional Skills level 2

NB All apprenticeship standards require apprentices to provide evidence of their English and maths grades before they can progress through the Gateway to their End Point Assessment and achieve the apprenticeship qualification.



Dental Nurse Level 3 Course Overview

Pre-programme →	On Programme Learning covering Skills, Knowledge & Behaviours →	Gateway →	Independent End Point Assessment
Initial assessment English & Maths	Study towards Dental Nurse (Integrated) Level 3 qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e-portfolio of evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online exam
Skills Scan	Portfolio of evidence to be built during on programme learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English level 2 Maths level 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observation with Questions & Answers
Induction with Trainer Assessor	On programme Assessments & Reviews: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly class sessions with a tutor 8-10 week Progress Reviews with Trainer Assessor, apprentice and employer 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interview

Apprenticeship Details

This apprenticeship programme is designed to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to be an effective Dental Nurse.

The **Skills & Behaviours** element of the apprenticeship is to be completed with support from the Tutor and Trainer Assessor making periodic visits to the apprentice in the workplace. The Tutor and Trainer Assessor will support and guide the apprentice to ensure that they are developing the skills and competency required in accordance with the apprenticeship standard.

The Occupational Skills element of the course will cover:

1. Work to current best practice for dental nurses.
2. Use appropriate communication maintaining professionalism at all times and through all media to provide patient-centred care.
3. Prepare and maintain the clinical environment.
4. Carry out infection control procedures.
5. Prepare, mix and handle materials.
6. Keep accurate and current patient records.
7. Prepare equipment and materials for dental radiographs.
8. Give appropriate oral and general health advice to patients.
9. Recognise and deal with medical emergencies.
10. Take responsibility for your own professional development in line with General Dental Council requirements.
11. Contribute to the quality improvement of the service.

Examples of the Knowledge element of the course include:

1. Know and understand dental and regional anatomy.
2. Know and understand the respiratory and circulatory system.
3. Know and understand legal and ethical responsibilities involved in protecting and promoting the health of individual patients.
4. Know and understand the principals of preventative dentistry.
5. Know and understand the importance of maintaining confidentiality and protecting all data relating to patients and their treatment.
6. Know and understand the equipment, instruments and materials used to provide chairside support to dental professionals, and operate in the clinical environment.
7. Know and understand the potential routes of transmission of infectious agents in dental practice.
8. Know and understand Health & Safety legislation relating to dental materials and other medication.
9. Know and understand the scientific principles of medical ionising radiation.
10. Know and understand the different types of radiographs used in dentistry including how to process and store them.
11. Know and understand a range of conditions that could contribute to medical emergencies.

End Point Assessment

End Point Assessment (EPA) normally takes 3 months to complete and consists of:

- Online examination
- Observation with Questions and Answers
- Interview

Online examination

Under exam-based conditions, the apprentice will complete an online exam which will test their knowledge and understanding of the theories underpinning Dental Nurse practice.

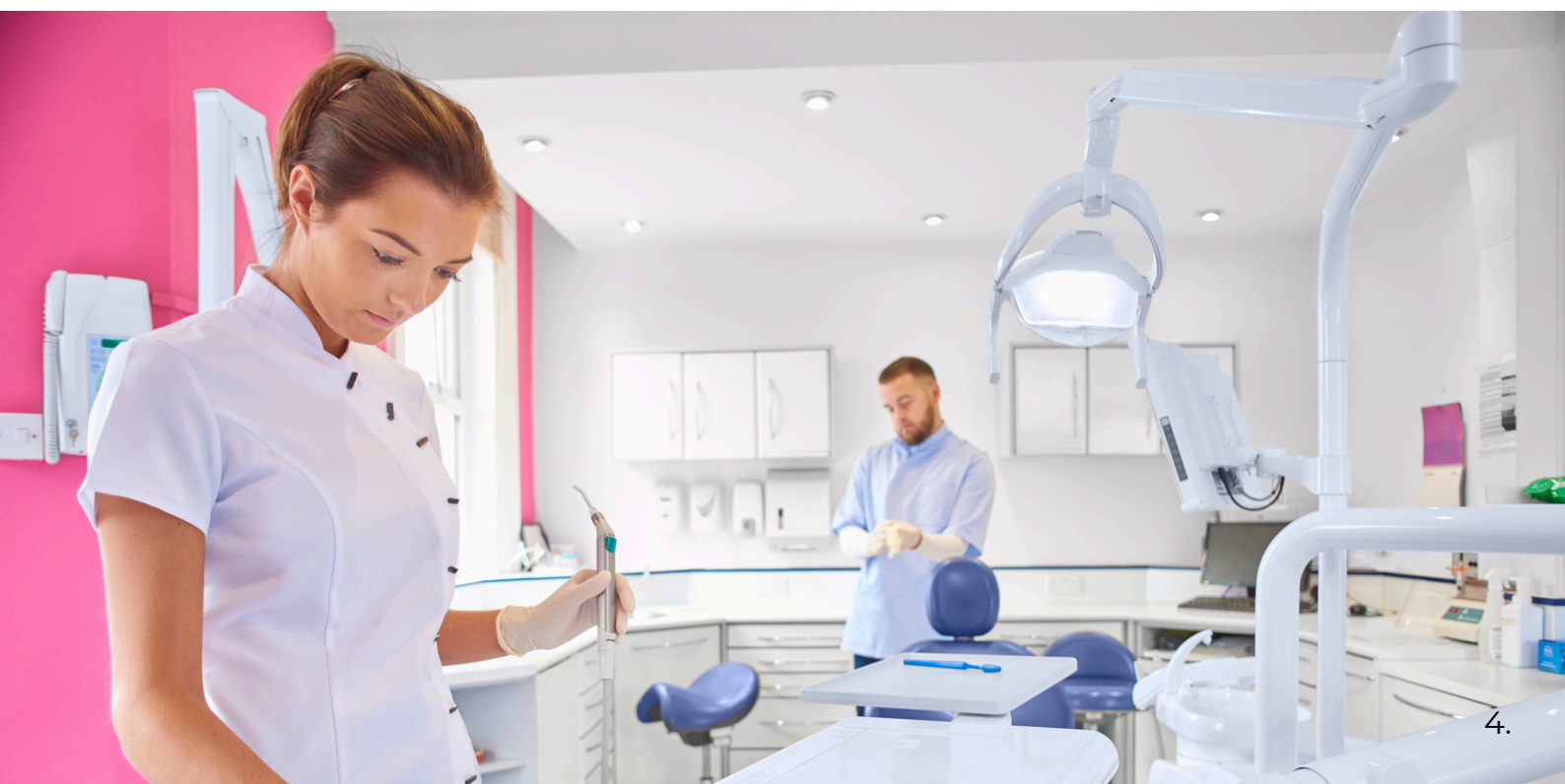
Observation with Questions and Answers

The apprentice will be observed carrying out work-based tasks in their workplace that form part of their routine practice as a Dental Nurse. The observation will cover the knowledge, skills and behaviour required to be an effective Dental Nurse.

Interview

The purpose of the interview is to determine the extent to which the apprentice understands the requirements of his/her role as defined by the apprenticeship standard.

The portfolio of evidence that has been completed by the apprentice during their programme will be used as a source of evidence by which apprentices can exemplify their responses to questions asked by the assessor. The portfolio itself will not be assessed, but will be used by the assessor to prepare the questioning for the professional discussion and by the apprentice to exemplify their responses to the questions.



Grading & Progression

Apprenticeship grading

The available grades for this apprenticeship programme are **Fail** or **Pass**.

Where can apprentices progress to?

The apprentice may choose to progress on to further training to progress their career as a therapist, hygienist or dentist.

