

Dental Nurse

Apprenticeship

Level 3

The role of the Dental Nurse is vital in any practice, supporting dentists to meet patient needs and delivering a high level of patient care.

An apprenticeship is a smart, cost-effective way to recruit a new Dental Nurse or to upskill a member of your existing staff to take on the role. With an apprenticeship, you can train and develop a Dental Nurse to fit your particular ways of working.

The Dental Nurse Level 3 apprenticeship reflects all aspects of clinical responsibilities and duties of a Dental Nurse's role in a variety of clinical environments and will provide the apprentice with the relevant qualification to apply to the General Dental Council (GDC) for professional registration as a Dental Nurse.

Key Areas of Study

Your apprentice will cover essential knowledge, skills and behaviours on their programme. The full menu of options for what can be covered is outlined below, and you can select the areas of most importance for your organisation.

Quick Information:

New Apprenticeship Standard designed by employers for employers

Sector:

Healthcare

Who is it for?

New recruits and existing staff

Start date:

September, January, April

Level:

Level 3

Duration:

Minimum 18 months

How does it work?

1 day per week at College over 12 months, one-to-one training in the workplace and assessor visits every 6 weeks

Content:

Menu of options that can be tailored to your organisation

Assessment:

Interview, coursework and examinations

Qualification:

L3 Diploma in Dental Nursing

Additional qualifications:

On completion, the apprentice must register with the General Dental Council as a qualified Dental Nurse



Knowledge

Dental and regional anatomy

- A thorough understanding of dental/oral anatomy and physiology.

Respiratory and circulatory systems

- How to recognise the range and functions of normal human structures.

Health promotion and disease prevention

- The basic principles of a population health care approach, including oral and general health care; factors that can affect oral and general health care.
- Clear understanding of the role of dental professionals and healthcare teams during the delivery of health promotion.
- The delivery of oral health care information and preventive information which encourages patient self-care and motivation.

Transmission of infectious diseases and their prevention

- The potential routes of transmission of infectious agents in a dental environment and mechanisms for the prevention of infection.
- The scientific principles of decontamination and disinfection and relevance to health and safety and current best practice guidelines.

Materials, equipment and resources

- Commonly used dental materials and equipment and their uses and applications.
- Correct usage, handling, storage and disposal of materials and equipment in accordance with workplace and legislative requirements.
- How to select correct equipment, materials and instruments for all stages during general chair side procedures

Medical emergencies

- The role of the first aider and understanding of equipment, record keeping, recommended good practice and maintaining hygiene throughout.
- Recognise and support action to deal with medical emergencies.

Legislative compliance and regulatory requirements

- A thorough understanding of the role and responsibilities of the Dental Nurse and other Dental Care Professionals involved in patient management.
- Legal and ethical responsibilities involved in protecting and promoting the health of individual patients.

Communication

- The methods of communicating with patients, the dental team and members of the wider health care sector

Self-management

- Understand principles relating to evidence-based approaches to learning, clinical and professional practice and decision making.
- Know consequences of own professional actions, attitudes and behaviours and effects on the dental team, the workplace and public opinion.
- How to assess own capabilities and limitations in the interest of providing high quality patient care; seeking and using feedback from colleagues or supervisors where appropriate.

Skills

Health promotion

- Advise patients on oral health maintenance.
- Support members of the dental health care team in the delivery of health care advice and preventative support.
- Recognise and comply with national guidance and best practice, acknowledging local health initiatives.

Clinical skills

- Prepare and maintain the clinical environment before, during and after dental procedures.
- Prepare records, equipment and resources for all stages of treatment including dental radiography.
- Work in a safe and efficient manner.
- Undertake audits, testing and maintenance of equipment and maintain appropriate records to reflect this.
- Manage and perform effective decontamination and infection control procedures complying with legislative, local and current best practice guidelines.
- Provide chair side support to the operator during clinical dental procedures.
- Prepare, mix and handle dental materials in correct manner whilst ensuring manufacturers' requirements for storage, usage and disposal are facilitated.
- Record dental charting and oral tissue assessment carried out by other Registrants.

Patient care

- Recognise and comply with systems and processes to support safe patient care.
- Recognise and take into account the needs of different patients throughout the patient care process.
- Contribute to obtaining and recording patient clinical history.
- Monitor, support and reassure patients throughout all aspects and processes.
- Give appropriate patient advice in relation to their needs and treatment plan.

Patient management

- Put patients' interests first and act to protect them.
- Act as an advocate for patients where appropriate.
- Communicate with colleagues in relation to the direct care of individuals.
- Demonstrate safe, prompt and effective first aid in emergency situations.
- Support patients and colleagues in event of medical emergency.
- Discuss the health risks of diet, drugs and substance misuse and the use of substances such as tobacco, alcohol and drugs on oral and general health.

Professionalism

- Act without discrimination, show integrity and be trustworthy at all times.
- Be respectful of patients' dignity and choices.

Management skills

- Manage own performance and development.
- Manage the clinical environment within own scope of practice.
- Recognise and comply with the team working requirements as set out in the Scope of Effectively Managing Own Time and Resources.

Communication skills

- Communicate with the dental team in relation to the direct care of the individual.
- Implement correct methods of communication for spoken, written and electronic records.
- Have open and effective communication methods with patients and the dental team.

Behaviours

Ethical

- Commitment to the General Dental Council Standards for the Dental Team

Professional

- Reliability, working to high standards.
- A commitment to excellent customer service.
- Effective time management and self-management.
- Appropriate use and storage of confidential information.

Commitment

- A caring approach toward patients and colleagues.
- A commitment to striving for the best at all times.

Reflection and self awareness

- Awareness of own impact and influence when working with others.
- An awareness of how to get the best from each individual.
- The ability to reflect on own practice to support self development.

Responsible

- Take responsibility for own actions and act in accordance with GDC Standards.
- Act and raise concerns as described in the Principles of Raising Concerns.
- Be responsible for own development and currency of skills, knowledge and understanding whilst ensuring current guidelines and best practice guidance is adhered to.
- Take a patient centred approach to working with the dental and wider healthcare team.
- Recognise the impact of own personal behaviours and work/act professionally.
- Recognise the signs of abuse or neglect and raise concerns where necessary.
- Implement the processes of informed consent.
- Recognise and act upon the legal and ethical responsibilities involved in the protection and promotion of healthcare to individuals.

Training, Tutoring and Assessment

The whole programme takes a minimum of 18 months to complete, at which point your apprentice can start their end point assessment. The pace at which the apprentice progresses will be driven by you and the apprentice. The learning is based on the GDC Learning Outcomes. We will carry out regular visits to ensure the apprentice is on track and will support both you and the apprentice by:

- Working with you prior to the start of the apprenticeship to understand the detail of the planned learning journey and what will be entailed for you and the apprentice
- Delivering the knowledge requirements of the apprenticeship outlined above
- Providing advice and guidance on learning strategies and tools that will support the apprentice's preferred learning style and improve their learning agility
- Supporting you in your commitments to the apprenticeship including provision of any additional training if required.

End Point Assessment

The apprentice will be entered for the final assessment when both you and the College consider the apprentice has demonstrated the skills, knowledge/ understanding and behaviours required of a competent Dental Nurse. The end point assessment contains two components; both components must be passed for the apprentice to be deemed competent:

Synoptic project (worth 75%) – This consists of a 2,00-3,000 word project to be completed in the final three months of the apprenticeship. The subject can be chosen from a bank of themes and should reflect the current needs of your business, allowing the apprentice to demonstrate their competence through the work they have done with you.

Interview (worth 25%) – This consists of a structured discussion between your apprentice and an independent assessor, focusing on the project results and how they have performed during the apprenticeship.

For more information on the assessment for Dental Nurse Apprenticeship please see the full assessment plan in the Apprenticeship Standard documentation. We will arrange the End Point Assessment.

Apprenticeship Entry Requirements

Apprentices will be required to have 5 GCSEs grades A* - C, including English Language and Maths or equivalent.

Future/Other Opportunities

Health Science Access to apply for Dental Hygiene Therapy, post qualification, also available.

More Information

To find out more about the opportunities and financing of apprenticeships and to discuss your particular requirements, please email employer@sheffcol.ac.uk or call **0114 260 2600** to speak to one of our friendly employer advisors.

Why choose The Sheffield College?

As one of the region's largest providers of apprenticeships, The Sheffield College is more than just your local provider; we deliver the dedicated support you need to source, train and get the best out of your apprentice.

We appreciate how difficult and time consuming it can be to recruit staff. That's why when you recruit an apprentice with us we will advertise the vacancy, engage your candidates and even pre-screen them to make the process as easy as possible for you.

We help you get the best deal by finding the right funding and we handle the paperwork to make the process of arranging an apprenticeship training programme as smooth as possible. Our employer partnership team, apprenticeship tutors and assessment staff are experts, and we invest time and money in training and upskilling them regularly so their knowledge is up-to-date and industry standard. At The Sheffield College we go above and beyond; we know that every business is different and we help to develop apprentices who will meet the needs of your business.

Get In Touch

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