

Dental Nurses

Dental nurses are members of a group of Dental Care Professionals (DCPs). Dental Nurses play a vital role within a dental team and provide support and assistance in clinical and non-clinical aspects of patient care.

As employers, we expect a friendly, caring attitude and a positive approach to all people – colleagues and patients alike. Our dental nurses must be well presented and show a willingness to study, be able to work as part of a team, have good written and oral communication skills, excellent organisational skills and good manual dexterity.

The role of a dental nurse

- Providing chair-side support to dentists, therapists and hygienists throughout a range of dental procedures
- Ensuring patients are cared for and supported
- Preparing and maintaining the dental equipment, instruments and materials within a dental surgery
- Carrying out infection control and decontamination procedures
- Recording dental charting carried out by clinicians
- Preparing, mixing and handling dental materials
- Working as part of a team to ensure the smooth running and success of the dental practice
- An experienced dental nurse will use his/her knowledge of dentistry to anticipate what is needed during treatment sessions, a skill that is highly valued by the clinician.
- Providing administration support in making appointments, taking payments and dealing with paperwork.

Training

Training will begin on the first working day in employment as a trainee dental nurse.

Trainee dental nurses must work alongside a registered dentist or hygiene, providing chairside support for a full range of clinical dental procedures for a minimum of 15 hours per week.

Trainee dental nurses also have the opportunity to complete a seven week induction programme through NHS Education for Scotland (NES). This enables new trainee dental nurses to gain the essential knowledge and skills to work safely in practice.

As well as training in practice, trainee dental nurses must also register to commence a **Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) Level 3 in Dental Nursing**, awarded by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) which is recognised by the General Dental Council.

Our nearest educational facility delivering the **SVQ Level 3 in Dental Nursing** is the Dundee Dental Education Centre. Generally, the course runs for 15 months, usually one day per month is spent at college. The practice will fund your course fees.

The Entry Requirements

Typical entry qualifications sought may include three standard grades at general level or three National Level 4 (N4) (SCQF level 4) in English, Maths and a Science (eg. Biology). However, upon interview, the college reserves the right to assess the merits of each individual regardless of entry qualifications.

On successful completion of the SVQ Level3 in Dental Nursing, professional registration with the General Dental Council (GDC) is a legal requirement in order to work as a dental nurse.

Regulation and Professional Registration with the General Dental Council

The GDC is the organisation which regulates all dental professionals in the United Kingdom. The GDC aims to protect patients within the United Kingdom by regulating dental staff, assuring the quality of dental education and setting standards for conduct that all dental professionals must adhere to.

Student dental nurses, although not yet registered with the GDC, **must** abide by the 'Student Fitness to Practice' guidelines and be able to demonstrate during their training that they have the knowledge, skills and attitudes expected of a dental care professional.

For more information on the GDC, access their website at www.gdc-uk.org

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Following qualification and registration with the GDC, DCPs must embark upon Continuing Professional Development to ensure that:

- knowledge is up to date and relevant to practice
- professional performance is up to the standards needed to maintain registration
- behaviour meets the standard set out in the GDC's guidance "Standards for the Dental Team".

At least 150 hours of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) should be completed every five years to maintain registration. The following subjects must be included:

- Medical Emergencies (at least 10 hours)
- Radiology and Radiation Protection (at least 5 hours)
- Disinfection and Decontamination (at least 5 hours)
- Legal and ethical issues
- Complaint handling
- Oral cancer early detection

Further Qualifications

There are a wide range of opportunities available to enable registered dental nurses to extend their clinical duties and develop their knowledge and skills within particular areas of interest, for example: dental radiography, oral health education, orthodontic dental nursing, special care dental nursing, taking dental impressions or the application of topical fluoride.

A qualified dental nurse is able to work in all branches of dentistry including general dental practice, hospital and community services, and within the armed forces.

Hours and Salary

The position would offer 36 hours a week. The salary will be £14,040- £15,818