

# DENTAL NURSING APPRENTICESHIP LEVEL 3

For new or existing staff

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.

In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with a diverse patient base, other members of the dental team, other health professionals and representatives of organisations providing support services to the setting. Depending on the dental setting the dental nurse could also interact with schools, the prison service, community dental service, individuals in their own homes and those in care home settings.

A Dental care professional will be responsible for providing care for people of all ages, different backgrounds, cultures and beliefs within a variety of clinical environments. Dental nurses must ensure that they only carry out a task, treatment or make decisions about a patient's care if they are appropriately trained, competent, indemnified and have the necessary skills. Dental nurses are registered professionals and work within the standards and scope of practice as defined by the General Dental Council (GDC) Scope of Practice document.

## Qualification

Level 3 Dental Nursing  
Practitioner (Diploma)

Completers may want to progress to other dental team roles, such as dental therapy and hygiene or related health roles such as nursing and radiology, oral health promotion and training/educator roles.

### Delivery model and duration:

Training is delivered in the workplace with a mixture of face to face and remote sessions. Structured learning can be tailored to the individual and flexibility of the workplace.

**Duration: 18 months plus  
3 months for End Point  
Assessment**

### Ideal for:

- Individuals pursuing a career in Dental Nursing
- Those who wish to obtain professional registration with the GDC
- Individuals working in other areas of dentistry such as orthodontics, cosmetic surgery and specialised services

### Benefits to business:

- Your apprentice will have more time in the workplace due to a planned and structured learning timetable that can be more flexible
- Suitable for new and existing staff members
- At GC, we offer a free apprentice recruitment should you decide to recruit an apprentice
- Train individuals in the specific skills they need to prosper and become an asset to your business

### Entry Criteria:

- GCSEs in English and maths grade 9 - 4 or A\* - C

### Benefits for learners:

- A structured learning environment with high quality teaching
- Access to Gloucestershire College's resources and learning support
- GC prepares learners for the end point assessment with a number of mock talks, to instil confidence in students and assist them in achieving the desired outcome

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## End Point Assessment

The End Point Assessment starts with the examination board (HEI) and finishes when the recognised course provider sends the certified list of apprentices to the General Dental Council (GDC). The apprentice is not required to carry out any additional assessments.

## Components

English and Mathematics qualifications completed in line with the apprenticeship funding rules.

## Occupational Duties

Undertake routine dental nursing clinical and technical procedures and tasks relevant to the assessment, and diagnosis of patients.

Undertake routine dental nursing clinical and technical procedures and tasks relevant to treatment planning and onward referral of patients.

Communicate effectively, maintaining confidentiality and records appropriately.

Provide professional leadership within the team working in partnership with patients, dental teams, other health and social care professionals.

Practice as an autonomous professional exercising judgment and integrity, keeping within the scope of practice and the legal and ethical boundaries of the profession.

Practice in a non-discriminatory and inclusive manner recognising the impact of culture, equality and diversity.

Promote oral health to individuals and the wider population and raise awareness of its role in preventing ill health amongst communities.

Reflect on, review and develop the quality of own practice.

Manage own health and well-being and promote the well-being of others in the team.