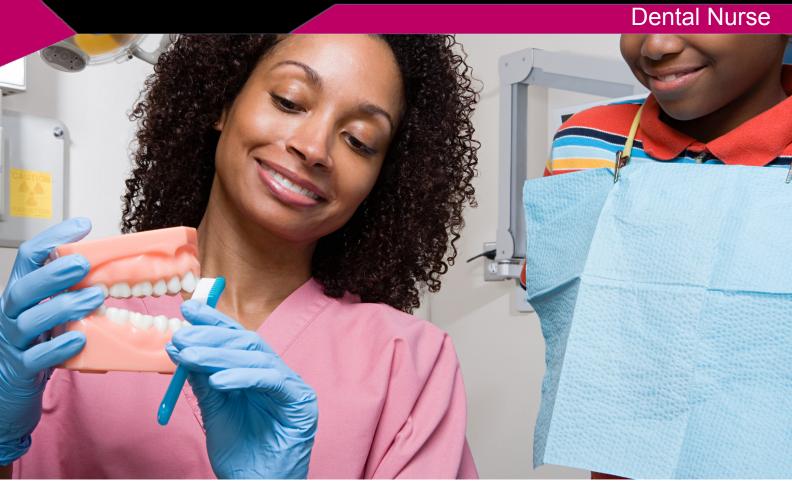




# Exploring Careers Through Technical Routes



# The Industry

Dental nurses work with dentists to assist with all aspects of patient care from carrying out check-ups to seeing patients through operations. They are an essential part of the dental team having a variety of tasks to complete both during and outside of dental procedure times.

General duties include: passing instruments to the dentist; removing water and saliva from the patient's mouth during treatment; preparing materials to make fillings and moulds; reassuring the patient and making sure they are relaxed and comfortable at all times; keeping the surgery tidy and instruments sterile; recording information about each patient; ensuring confidentiality at all times.

You could work in a dental practice, a hospital, with the community dental service, in a university or in the armed forces.

Chartered Society of Designers <a href="www.csd.org.uk">www.csd.org.uk</a>
Chartered Professional Institute (IPA) <a href="https://www.ipa.co.uk">https://www.ipa.co.uk</a>
Creative and Cultural Skills <a href="https://ccskills.org.uk">https://ccskills.org.uk</a>

# Skills and Requirements

You will need to have excellent communication skills and a caring nature as dental nurses need to be friendly, reliable and calm. You will also need:

- The ability to relate to all types of people to put them at ease, gain their confidence and decrease problems or fears
- Excellent organisational skills to ensure essential equipment and materials are easily accessible and sterilised efficiently during dental procedures
- Strong interpersonal skills and to enjoy working as part of a team
- A willingness to learn and enjoy working with new methods and advancements within dental care
- An ability to protect the confidentiality of patient information
- The ability to operate a computer based system
- Good manual dexterity, good eyesight and colour vision
- To act within the General Dental Council's (GDC) ethical guidance and standards for a dental professional.



# Exploring Careers through **Technical** Routes

Working and Learning as a Dental Nurse



# **Progression**

# **Study Programme**

Level 2
Dental Nurse.

Level 3
Dental Nursing
Assistant.



# **Apprenticeships**

Level 3

Dental Nursing.



#### **Further study**

Cert HE

Dental Nursing.
FdSc
Dental Nursing.
BSc
Dental Nursing.
BSc (Hons)
Dental Therapy and
Hygiene.



### **Career roles**

Dental therapist helping a dentist carry out the more routine dentistry work.

Dental hygienist helping people to look after their teeth and gums.



# Calculation including problem solving

#### Tasks:

- 1. Mix cement for the dentist to use when replacing a crown.
- 2. Sterilise instruments and perform cross-infection controls after each patient.
- 3. Plan the preparation of instruments to ensure the dentist can keep to the schedule of patient appointments.

## GCSE maths links:

- 1. Ratio, proportion and rates of change (direct and inverse proportion calculating amounts using proportion).
- 2. Ratio, proportion and rates of change (ratio in context sharing in a given ratio).
- 3. **Problem solving** (solving number problems).

## **Functional skills maths L2 links:**

1. Measure, shape and space

**MSS1/L2.5** Calculate with units of measure within the same system.

2. Number

N1/L2.3 Calculate ratio and direct proportion.

3. Measure, shape and space

**MSS1/L2.2** Calculate, measure and record time in complex contexts.

### Communication, all forms

#### Tasks:

- 1. Write a leaflet for local schools to advise children on oral health maintenance.
- 2. Help a patient to overcome pain whilst having an injection.
- Work closely with the dentist during the dental procedure, and in maintaining the client's electronic record.

#### **GCSE English links:**

1. **Analysing non-fiction** (responding to a non-fiction text - analyse an extract).

**Writing** (literary techniques - informative language).

- 2. **Spoken language** (speaking and listening audience and purpose; personal presence body language; voice).
- 3. **Spoken language** (speaking and listening audience and purpose).

**Writing** (writing non-fiction - a template).

#### Functional skills English L2 links:

1. Writing composition

**WC/L2.2** Write text of an appropriate level of detail and of appropriate length to meet the needs of purpose and audience.

- 2. Speaking, listening and communicating SLC/L2.6 Use language that is effective,
- **SLC/L2.6** Use language that is effective, accurate and appropriate to context and situation.
- 3. Writing composition

**WC/L2.3** Organise writing for different purposes using appropriate format and structure.