

# Dental Nursing Apprenticeship Standard

## Bury College



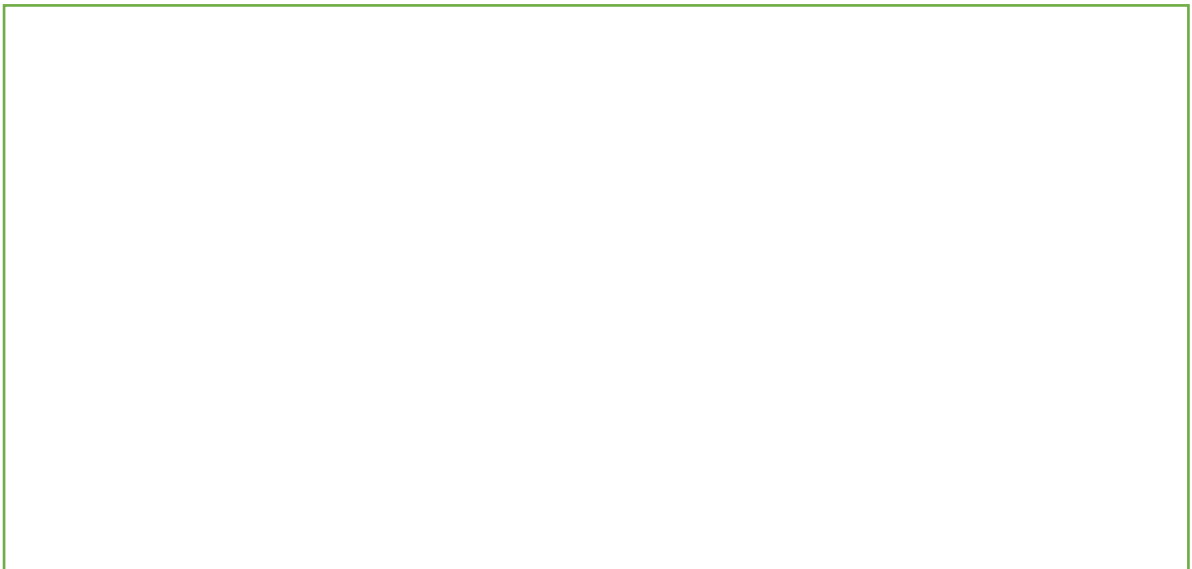
## Occupational Profile

The Dental Nurse role complements the role of other dental professionals. One of the primary roles is to provide chair side support to dental professionals and deliver a high level of patient care.

Dental Nurses may work in a variety of clinical environments and the Apprenticeship reflects all aspects of clinical responsibilities and duties of a dental nurse's role and will provide the apprentice with the relevant qualification to apply to the General Dental Council (GDC) for professional registration as a dental nurse.

### Task 1

Research the role of the Dental Nurse and list their roles and responsibilities below:



## Who are the GDC?

The General Dental Council is the UK- wide regulator of around 110,000 members of the dental team.

Their primary purpose is to protect patient safety and maintain public confidence in dental services.

To achieve this we register, qualified dental professionals, set standards for the dental team, investigate complaints about dental professionals' fitness to practice and work to ensure the quality of dental education.

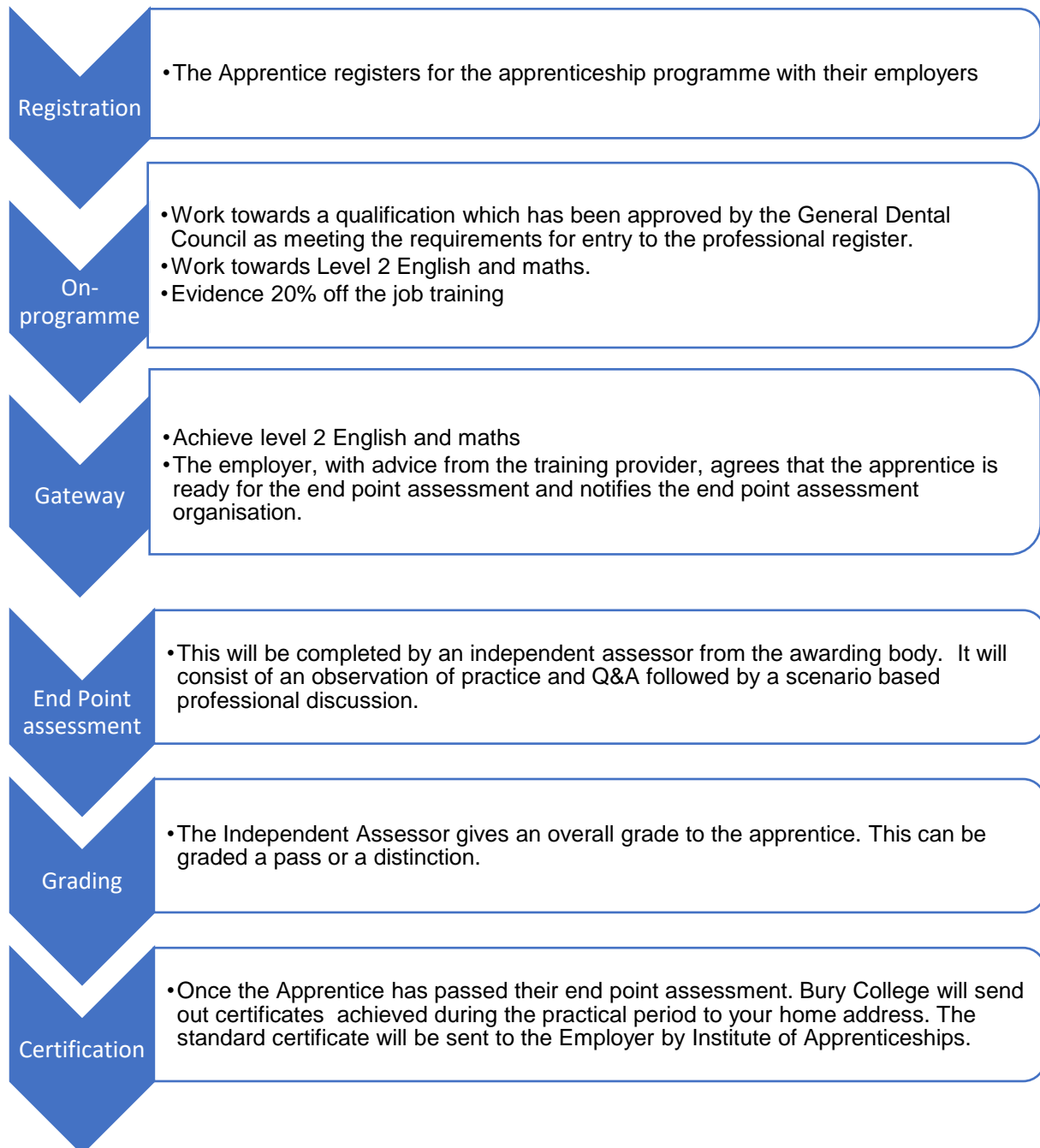
Using the link below, research and list the 9 GDC principles:

[www.gdc-uk.org](http://www.gdc-uk.org)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

## Overview of the Dental Apprenticeship Standard

The Apprenticeship standard provides a high-level description of the skills, knowledge, values and behaviours required of a Dental Nurse. Below is a flow chart detailing the different stages of the Apprenticeship.



For further information regarding what will be included in the end point assessment use the link below:

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/dental-nurse/>

## Career Progression for Dental Nurses

### Dental Hygienist

Hygienists are primary healthcare professionals who work independently of or alongside Dentists and other dental professionals to provide full oral healthcare. They have the training and education that focus on and specialise in the prevention and treatment of many oral diseases.

### Dental Therapist

A Dental Therapist is a member of the dental team who provides preventive and restorative dental care, for children and adults. Treatment is to be performed under the prescription of a Dentist. Common procedures performed include examination, prescribing and exposing intra and extra oral dental x-rays, administration of local anaesthetic, preparation and restoration of carious lesions, pulpal therapies, extraction of deciduous teeth and preventive therapies such as fissure sealants and fluoride application. Oral health education and promotion also plays a large part in their role.

### Orthodontic Therapist

The role of an Orthodontic Therapist includes fitting orthodontic headgear, tooth separators, bonded retainer, placing brackets and bands on teeth and taking impressions. To give advice on appliance care but not to treatment plan. To work under the prescription of a Dental Professional (Orthodontist)

### Dental Technician

A Dental Technician produces dentures, crowns, bridges and braces that people may need during dental treatment, upon prescription of a dental clinician.

## Practice Manager

The main roles of the Practice Manager are to ensure that the dental practice is sufficiently run and compliant. Also, that the dental team is organised and supported in order to provide outstanding patient care by making sure the environment is safe for all staff, patients and visitors. Amongst other duties, The Manager is in charge of making sure that all legal, ethical and organisational guidelines are adhered to by team members and that the practice complies with industry and Government guidelines.

## Dental Sales Representative

The role of a Dental Sales Representative includes skills and education, product knowledge, product demonstrations, cold calling and account management. This also includes developing positive relationships with new, current customers and being responsible for finding new business, as well as servicing existing accounts.

## Treatment Co-Ordinator

The role includes presenting patients with their personalised treatment plan and discussing their options thoroughly so they can make an informed choice.

## Oral Health Educator

They provide advice on dental issues such as preventing decay and periodontal disease, the use of fluoride and how to minimise the risk of oral cancer. This path requires an Oral Health Educator qualification and on average takes between 6-12 months.

## Assessor (Learning and Skills Coach)

An Assessor helps trainees to gain their diploma in dental nursing by observing their work and then measuring it against

the standards set out by the qualifying body. An Assessor is there not only to judge that a student is fully competent but also when necessary, to help the student improve their skills with coaching and tuition so they meet the specified criteria.

### Dental Tutor

To plan and deliver current and future classroom programmes in accordance with the awarding body. To support in the updating and standardisation of the resources used to teach the classroom and blended qualifications. To deliver CPD courses and to remain current in your skills and knowledge of the dental sector and legislative requirements.

### Senior Dental Nurse

This may include assigning Nurses to certain surgeries and tasks, taking responsibility for continuing professional development of the nursing team, becoming cross-infection control lead, lead nurse, first aid lead and the management of legionella/dip slide water testing.

### Specialist Nursing

There's great scope for Dental Nurses who are interested in specialist areas and often there's a need for nurses focused on orthodontics, sedation, endodontics, radiography, or implantology. Other areas of specialty include special needs, paediatric dentistry or maxillofacial department. Further qualifications may be needed depending on your preferred area.

There are also many other opportunities that a recognised dental nurse qualification can lead on to:

- Working for the CQC (Care Quality Commission)
- Hospital Based or Community Dental Nurse
- Agency/Locum Dental Nurse
- Telephone Triage Dental Nurse/Referral centre Triage

- Prison Service Dental Nurse
- Phlebotomist

The Dental Nurse qualification can also be used to gain entry on to an access course at University or on to further development in a different career.

## Useful Links and Resources

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/dental-nurse/>

<https://www.gdc-uk.org/>

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/>

<https://www.resus.org.uk/>

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/health-and-social-care/dental-nursing/5234-dental-nursing#tab=information>

