



Introduction

Curriculum/syllabus

The NEBDN National Diploma in Dental Nursing is a General Dental Council (GDC) recognised dental nursing qualification which covers all outcomes described within the GDC Preparing to Practice document.

The purpose of the qualification is to prepare trainee dental nurses in the foundations of dental nursing so they can demonstrate the highest standards in terms of knowledge, skills and professional attributes.

This curriculum/syllabus is based on the GDC registration requirements for dental nurses and the national occupational standards for dental nursing published by Skills for Health. It sets out the knowledge, skills and behavioural requirements that should be developed and demonstrated. These are set out in terms of professional knowledge and competence.

Assessments during training and in the NEBDN examination will cover any of the knowledge and performance competencies set out in this curriculum – indeed, most if not all of them will be assessed at some stage of training or in the examination.

The qualification is assessed using a formative workplace assessment, the Record of Experience (RoE), which enables the workplace team to become an integral part of the training of the trainee dental nurse.

The summative assessment comprises a written (Single Best Answer (SBA) and Extended Matching Questions (EMQ) and practical (Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) component aimed at assessing knowledge and decision making to demonstrate trainee dental nurses' understanding and competence. The summative assessment also adheres to current educational best practice.

The assessment methods for each of the knowledge and performance competencies set out in this curriculum are aligned to each competency

The curriculum is set out in modules. Each module describes a different area of professional practice:

Module 1: Professionalism and the Role of the Dental Nurse

Aim: To discuss the roles and responsibilities of a dental nurse including their professional responsibility and to enable dental nurses to understand the importance of adhering to professional, ethical, legislative and local policies relevant to working within the dental setting.



Module 2: Health and Safety

Aim: To identify and manage risks and hazards in the workplace in line with current legislative frameworks, government policies and accepted good practice.

Module 3: Dealing with Medical Emergencies

Aim: To provide appropriate support in emergency situations and understand the role of the dental team within these situations.

Module 4: General, Dental and Regional Anatomy

Aim: To demonstrate an understanding of General, Dental and Regional anatomy and the relevance to patients' treatment needs.

Module 5: Oral Disease

Aim: To demonstrate an understanding of common oral diseases, including oral cancer and their effect on the oral cavity.

Module 6: Prevention of Oral Disease

Aim: To demonstrate the preparation of the dental environment and support the operator during a variety of preventative procedures

Module 7: Assessment

Aim: To demonstrate the preparation of the dental environment and the support of the operator during an oral health assessment. To demonstrate an understanding of current legislation relating to confidentiality. To demonstrate support during the taking of dental images, processing images and maintaining quality in accordance with relevant legislation and policy.

Module 8: Restorative Dentistry

Aim: To demonstrate the preparation of the dental environment and support the patient and the operator during the provision of restorative procedures.

Module 9: Child Dental Health

Aim: To demonstrate the preparation of the dental environment and support the patient and the operator during the provision of restorative and orthodontic procedures. To demonstrate appropriate patient management and communication techniques.



Module 10: Minor Oral Surgery

Aim: To demonstrate the preparation of the dental environment and support the patient and the operator during the minor oral surgery. To demonstrate appropriate patient management and communication techniques.

Module 11: Pain and Anxiety Control

Aim: To demonstrate the preparation of the dental environment and support the patient and the operator during the provision of pain and anxiety control. To demonstrate appropriate patient management and communication techniques.

Minimum guided learning hours have been aligned to each area of the curriculum.

GDC overarching learning outcomes

Upon registration with the GDC the registrant should be able to:

- Practise safely and effectively, making the high-quality long-term care of patients the first concern
- Recognise the role and responsibility of being a registrant and demonstrate professionalism through their education, training and practice in accordance with GDC guidance
- Demonstrate effective clinical decision making
- Describe the principles of good research, how to access research and interpret it for use as part of an evidence-based approach to practice
- Apply an evidence-based approach to learning, practice, clinical judgment and decision making and use critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Accurately assess their own capabilities and limitations, demonstrating reflective practice, in the interest of high-quality patient care and act within these boundaries
- Recognise the importance of lifelong learning and apply it to practice

Completion of this qualification can help you to progress within dental nursing, enabling completion of Post-Registration courses such as:

- Radiography
- Oral Health Education
- Sedation Nursing
- Implant Nursing
- Orthodontic Nursing
- Fluoride Application

Candidates may also progress into other roles of dentistry such as:

- Tutor
- Witness or Mentor
- Practice manager



- Dental technician
- Dental hygienist
- Dental therapist
- Dentist