



Level 3 Diploma in the
Principles and Practice
of Dental Nursing

Qualification facts

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About this qualification

This qualification focuses on direct chair-side work and support during a range of dental treatments. It encompasses the underpinning ethics, professionalism, teamwork and communication required to work as a Dental Nurse.

The qualification covers the current General Dental Council (GDC) learning outcomes and Skills for Health National Occupational Standards and on completion it will enable learners to register with the GDC*. It can also be undertaken as part of the Apprenticeship Standard for a Dental Nurse (England) and Advanced Apprenticeship in Health (Dental Nursing) framework (Wales).

*This GDC has confirmed approval of this qualification and details can be found on their website www.gdc-uk.org.

Entry requirements

Learners must be at least 16 years old. We do not set any other entry requirements but Centres may have their own guidelines.

Experience in the workplace

Learners will need to be working or on practical placement to be able to show competence in knowledge, understanding and skills. It is recommended that learners spend a minimum of 16 hours per week in a Real Work Environment.

If learners are already working as a Dental Nurse this qualification could be undertaken to consolidate and extend their knowledge, understanding and skills. It will also confer their competence in their role as a Dental Nurse.

If learners are on practical placement, this qualification will provide them with the necessary knowledge, understanding and skills which will support them to gain employment as a Dental Nurse.

For learners undertaking the Dental Nursing apprenticeship, providers should refer to the apprenticeship standard (England) document: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-standard-dental-nurse>

Or apprenticeship framework (Wales) document: www.afosscalliance.org for clarification of requirements

Qualification structure

Learners must achieve 49 credits from the 17 mandatory units.

All knowledge and skills learning outcomes and assessment criteria must be met for each unit. In addition, learners must achieve a pass, merit or distinction in the two external assessment tests (part 1 and part 2) covering the underpinning knowledge across units DN 12-16.

There is no compensation between units, or between observations and unit tasks within a unit.

Guided Learning (GL) (hours): 366

Total Qualification Time (TQT): 490

Mandatory units

Unit no.	Unit ref	Title	Unit type	Level	Credit
DN 1	F/505/8337	Contribute to health and safety in the dental environment	Knowledge/ Skills	3	2
DN 2	J/505/8338	Work within regulatory requirements in relation to the role of a dental nurse	Skills	3	1
DN 3	L/505/8339	Reflect on and develop own practice as a dental nurse	Skills	3	2
DN 4	J/505/8341	Prepare and maintain environments, instruments and equipment for clinical dental procedures	Knowledge/ Skills	3	3
DN 5	F/505/8340	Promote oral health for individuals	Knowledge/ Skills	3	3
DN 6	L/505/8342	Provide support during the assessment of individuals' oral health	Skills	3	2
DN 7	R/505/8343	Contribute to the production of dental images	Skills	3	2
DN 8	Y/505/8344	Provide support during the prevention and control of periodontal disease, caries and the restoration of cavities	Knowledge/ Skills	3	3
DN 9	D/505/8345	Provide support during the provision of fixed and removable prosthesis	Skills	3	5
DN 10	H/505/8346	Provide support during non-surgical endodontic treatment	Skills	3	2
DN 11	K/505/8347	Provide support during the extraction of teeth and minor oral surgery procedures	Skills	3	3
DN 12	M/505/8348	Principles of infection control in the dental environment	Knowledge	3	4
DN 13	K/505/8350	Dental anatomy and assessment of oral health	Knowledge	3	4
DN 14	M/505/8351	Principles and techniques of dental radiography	Knowledge	3	4
DN 15	T/505/8352	Principles of managing oral disease and dental procedures	Knowledge	3	6
DN 16	A/505/8353	Understand ethics and professionalism in dental nursing	Knowledge	3	2
UFAE	D/504/6101	First aid essentials	Knowledge/ Skills	2	1

Assessment

Units DN 1 - DN 11 and unit UFAE are internally assessed, and units DN 12 - DN 16 are both internally and externally assessed.

A recommended range of assessment methods has been identified for the units in this qualification. This gives the opportunity for different learning styles and individual needs of learners to be taken into account:

- *Direct observation (by a qualified Assessor who is a GDC registrant and meets our assessment principles)
- Expert witness evidence
- Professional discussion
- *Reflective accounts (Learner log or reflective diary)
- Written and pictorial information
- Optional task set by us for knowledge learning outcomes/underpinning knowledge for skills learning outcomes
- Oral questions and answers.

*Mandatory assessment method

Progression

On completion of this qualification learners may progress to qualifications in the following areas:

- dental sedation
- dental radiography
- dental technology
- oral health education
- special care dental nursing
- orthodontic nursing
- dental practice management.

Learners may also progress into employment as a Dental Nurse or to other career pathways (with additional entry qualifications), including:

- dental hygienist
- dental therapist
- orthodontic therapist
- laboratory technician
- dentist
- senior nurse
- practice manager
- lecturer
- teacher and assessor of student dental nurses.

For more information

More information on this qualification can be found on our website www.cache.org.uk

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We continually invest in high quality qualifications for the health, care, early years and education sectors. Written and developed by experts, they have helped millions of learners across the world to raise professional standards, earning us a reputation for excellence and leadership across the sector. Our continued dedication to those who care for children, young people and adults means that our qualifications will continue to meet the needs of the modern workforce.

T: 0345 347 2123 info@cache.org.uk www.cache.org.uk

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