

DENTAL NURSE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A Dental Nurse works closely with the dentist, providing assistance in the surgery. This includes preparation of the surgery, chair side assistance, sterilisation, care of instruments and preparation of fillings and other materials used in dentistry. The Nurse maintains sterile conditions in the surgery and ensures that health and safety policy is adhered to. They record dental information about each patient, carry out stock control and may process x-rays. In general practice, Dental Nurses may also help out on reception and with general administration.

Dental Nurses are employed in general practices, the NHS, hospitals, community dental services, industry, universities and the Armed Forces.

INDUSTRY REQUIREMENTS

Since the 31 July 2006, Dental Nurses have been able to voluntarily join the General Dental Council (GDC) register. By July 2008, it will be mandatory for all practising Dental Nurses in the UK to be on the GDC register.

During the two year transitional period beginning on 31 July 2006 a Dental Nurse will be granted membership and registration when the candidate can prove they have four years' full-time experience in the last eight years.

After the two years transitional period a Dental Nurse will be required to hold a qualification that is approved by the GDC. See [Annex 1](#) for a list of approved qualifications.

REGISTRATION WITH A PROFESSIONAL BODY

Registration with the GDC is compulsory for all Dental Nurses by 31 July 2008. After this date it will be illegal to work as, and use the title of, Dental Nurse without being registered with the GDC.

Additional, information on registration for EEA, and non-EEA, national can be found in [Annex 2](#).

CASEWORKER TREATMENT

B&C

The post of Dental Nurse meets the skills criteria when it requires the Overseas National (OSN) to be registered with the GDC.

The applicant should hold a five digit registration number to verify their registration. Caseworkers should always check the GDC Register to confirm that a Dental Technician / Clinical Dental Technician is registered with the GDC.

<http://www.gdc-uk.org/Search+our+registers>

For applications approved before 31 July 2008 caseworkers should include paragraph P70H in approvals.

TWES

Training

This occupation is not suitable for TWES training.

Work Experience

The job meets the TWES criteria for work experience where the post is additional to the normal staffing requirements of the company and the work experience programme is of a standard at, or above, NVQ level 3. Workers should already have an academic/vocational qualification at least equivalent to NVQ Level 3 **or** previous relevant work experience at a level equivalent to NVQ Level 3. The employer should provide a work experience programme and a timetable for each stage of the programme and information on who will be supervising the worker.

SALARY DETAILS

The following salary information is taken from the NHS Agenda for Change.

Job	Band	Salary
Dental Nurse Entry Level	Band 3	£14,437 - £17,257
Dental Nurse	Band 4	£16,853 - £20,261
Dental Nurse Team Leader	Band 5	£19,683 - £25,424
Dental Nurse Specialist	Band 5	£19,683 - £25,424
Dental Nurse Team Manager	Band 6	£23,458 - £31,779
Dental Nurse Tutor	Band 6	£23,458 - £31,779

Additional allowances may be paid regionally.

Salaries in the private sector are broadly comparable with those in the public sector.

ADVERTISING

Acceptable advertising includes job centres, the National press or relevant specialist trade publications.

British Dental Nurses Journal

British Association of Dental Nurses (BADN)
Room 200
Hillhouse International Business Centre
PO Box 4

Thornton-Cleveleys
FY5 4QD
Tel: 01253 338360
Email: admin@badn.org.uk
Website: www.badn.org.uk

Dental Practice

A.E Morgan Publications Ltd
Stanley House
9 West Street
Epsom
Surrey
KT18 7RL
Tel: 01372 741411
Fax: 01372 744493
Email: newing@aemorgan.co.uk
Website: www.dentalpracticeuk.net

The Probe

Nexus Media Ltd
Nexus House
Azalea Drive
Swanley
Kent
BR8 8HU
Tel: 01322 660070
Fax: 01322 616305
Email: Stefan.appleby@nexusmedia.co.uk
Website: www.the-probe.co.uk

FURTHER INFORMATION

British Association of Dental Nurses (BADN)

Room 200
Hillhouse International Business Centre
PO Box 4
Thornton-Cleveleys
FY5 4QD
Tel: 01253 338360
Email: admin@badn.org.uk
Website: www.badn.org.uk

National Examining Board for Dental Nurses

110 London Street
Fleetwood
Lancashire
FY7 6EU
Tel: 01253 778417
Fax: 01253 777268
Email: info@nebdn.org.uk

Website: www.nebdn.org.uk/node

General Dental Council (GDC)

37 Wimpole Street

London

W1G 8DQ

Tel: 020 7887 3800

Fax: 020 7224 3294

Email: information@gdc-uk.org

Website: www.gdc-uk.org

ANNEX 1

To gain access onto the GDC register, a Dental Nurse will be required to achieve one of the following:

- The National Examining Board for Dental Nurses (NEBDN) National Certificate examination, plus 24 months experience
- The NVQ Level 3 in Oral Healthcare: Dental Nursing
- A Certificate of Proficiency in Dental Nursing awarded by a recognised Dental Hospital
- The Certificate of Higher Education in Dental Nursing offered by the School of Professionals Complementary to Dentistry, at the University of Portsmouth

ANNEX 2

There are two types of registration with the GDC:

Full Registration – This allows the candidate to lawfully practice dentistry in the United Kingdom.

- Temporary Registration – This allows the candidate to lawfully practice dentistry in the United Kingdom.
- Temporary Registration – This allows the candidate to practice dentistry under supervision with specific restrictions, whereby registration is only valid for the dates stated and in the hospital(s) or institution(s) listed in their registration certificate.

British Nationals can qualify automatically for Full Registration, while, there are three different routes which an EEA (and Switzerland) or non-EEA can take in order to gain Full Registration:

- Qualifying Applications
- Assessment Route
- Overseas Registration Examination (ORE)

Caseworkers should check that an OSN's degree is eligible for temporary registration, by clicking on the link below –

<http://www.gdc-uk.org/Potential+registrant/Temporary+registration/Recognised+Universities+-+Temporary+Registration.htm>