



Dental Nurse

① What the role entails

The broad purpose of the occupation is to provide chair-side support to all dental professionals and ensure high standards of cleanliness and infection control. Dental Nurses prepare instruments, materials and medicaments for dental procedures; mix materials; sterilise instruments; keep records; note dictation; carry out stock control; and ensure patient comfort and safety throughout their visit. Dental Nurses work in a clinical environment that could be located in an NHS general dental practice, hospital, private dental practice, specialist dental practice, community dental service or military dental clinic.



② On-programme assessment

The apprentice must achieve the following on-programme assessment requirements prior to Gateway:

- Level 2 English and maths
- A Level 3 qualification which has been approved by the General Dental Council as meeting the requirements for entry to the professional register as a Dental Nurse.



③ Gateway requirements

The decision to take an apprentice through Gateway is made between the employer, Independent Training Provider and apprentice. The apprentice must have completed all the on-programme elements before they enter Gateway, including the completion of a Portfolio of Evidence.



④ End-point assessment

The end-point assessment (EPA) for Dental Nurse contains 3 methods of assessment as outlined below:

Knowledge Test:

This is a closed-book test and will be appropriately structured to draw out the best of the apprentice's knowledge assigned to this assessment method. The Knowledge Test will be 90 minutes in duration and consists of 45 multiple choice questions. Fail = 0-31 marks, Pass = 32-40 marks, Distinction = 41-45 marks.

Observation of Practice:

The Observation of Practice allows the Independent End-Point Assessor (IEPA) to see the apprentice during their normal everyday work. The Observation of Practice is undertaken in the apprentice's workplace and will be a total of 75 minutes. The Observation itself will last 60 minutes followed by a 15 minute question and answer session to check knowledge and understanding relating to the skills and behaviours observed. The Observation is graded Fail or Pass.

Interview underpinned by a Portfolio of Evidence:

The Portfolio of Evidence is submitted at Gateway and is used by the IEPA to assist in the selection of questions during the Interview. The apprentice will use the Portfolio of Evidence as a reference to support their answers. The Interview is 45 minutes in duration. The Interview is graded Fail, Pass or Distinction.

⑤ Grade aggregation table

Knowledge Test	Observation of Practice	Interview Underpinned by Portfolio of Evidence	Overall Grade
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	Distinction	Pass
Distinction	Pass	Pass	Pass
Distinction	Pass	Distinction	Distinction

If the apprentice fails any assessment method, the EPA will be graded Fail overall.

⑥ Completion and certification

Once the IEPA verifies the apprentice has successfully completed all EPAs, EPA Plus will activate certification. Working with the apprenticeship certificate issuing authority, we'll ensure the apprentice receives their certificate.



⑦ What next?

On completion of the Dental Nurse EPA, apprentices can register with the General Dental Council as a qualified Dental Nurse.

Why choose EPA Plus?

We are an approved End-Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO) specialising in EPA delivery across Health, Education & Care and Business apprenticeship standards. EPA Plus offers flexible and reliable EPA solutions supported by sector expertise, guidance documents and proactive service and support.

