

Dental Hygiene Preceptorship

Scope and Support

Overview

- The Dental Hygienist will be placed in the practice 1 day a week and 1 day a week in outreach during the programme. With study days allocated on a Thursday.
- The Dental Hygienist will be utilised in the practice to treat periodontally involved patients, under the NHS.
- The Dental Hygienist will be working at a dental training practice in the working week and will plan accordingly to factor in outreaches.
- They will be offered study day courses with NHSE through Accent (online learning platform) that they will be expected to attend. These may take place in clinical hours or outside of them.
- We will be moving to face to face study days but a combination of online learning will be available.

Qualification and experience

- The Dental Hygienist will be fully UK qualified graduate.
- Have sought out their own dental indemnity.
- Must be GDC registered.
- They may be newly qualified, have been qualified for some years or be returning to work after a break.

Mentor Support:

- The Dental Hygienist does not need their clinical work checked by the practice/Dentists. Phasing away from Undergraduate “checking in and checking out system”
- The Dental Hygienist will have some records of logs and/or assessments to fill in throughout the programme.
- Some may prefer a light mentoring approach with someone to go to for support when needed. Others may prefer regular check ins and guidance.
- It is suggested to have a team meeting with the new starter prior to commencing clinical activities to ascertain what support they may prefer.
- The Dental Hygienists involvement in staff meetings and learning opportunities within the practice is encouraged.
- The Dental Hygienist will always require the dedicated support of a Dental Nurse in the surgery with them
- Another trained member of staff should be always present on site. This does not necessarily need to be a dentist, but they need to be confident in medical emergencies and practice procedures.
- **The Dental Hygienist must only carry out treatment under the NHS. Strictly no private work.**

Scope of practice

Dental hygienists are registered dental professionals who help patients maintain their oral health by preventing and treating periodontal disease and promoting good oral health practice. They complete CPD cycles as part of their GDC registration.

They carry out treatment **direct to patients** or **under prescription from a dentist**.

Dental Hygienists can undertake the following if trained, competent and indemnified to do so:

- obtain a detailed dental history from patients and evaluate their medical history
- carry out a clinical examination within their competence
- identify anatomical features, recognise abnormalities, and interpret common pathology
- carry out oral cancer screening
- if necessary, refer patients to other healthcare professionals
- keep full, accurate and contemporaneous patient records
- if working on prescription, vary the detail but not the direction of the prescription according to patient needs
- complete periodontal examination and charting and use indices to screen and monitor periodontal disease
- diagnose and treatment plan, plan the delivery of care for patients within their competence
- provide dental hygiene care to a wide range of patients
- give appropriate patient advice
- provide preventive oral care to patients and liaise with dentists over the treatment of caries, periodontal disease, and tooth wear
- give patients advice on how to stop smoking
- prescribe radiographs
- take, process, and interpret various film views used in general dental practice
- take intra and extra-oral photographs
- undertake supragingival and subgingival scaling and root surface debridement using manual and powered instruments
- give infiltration and inferior dental block analgesia
- care of implants and treatment of peri-implant tissues
- use appropriate anti-microbial therapy to manage plaque related diseases
- apply topical treatments and fissure sealants
- adjust restored surfaces in relation to periodontal treatment

Dental hygienists do not:

- restore teeth
- carry out pulp treatments • adjust unrestored surfaces • extract teeth