

JOB PROFILE

Job Title	:	Dental Therapist
Contract	:	Permanent
Managed by	:	Dental Officer
Accountable to	:	Associate Operations Director
Job Purpose	:	To provide a wide range of dental treatment including all extended duties appropriate to a registered dental therapist and hygienist at the request of dental surgeons working within the community dental service. The work will be carried out within health centres, mobile units and includes domiciliary care. The patient base will include adults and children as well as adults and children with additional needs, phobics and patients with learning and physical disabilities.

Principal Responsibilities:

1. To develop 'team dentistry' applying appropriate skills to a wide range of cases.
2. To provide a wide range of dental treatment, appropriate to a registered dental therapist and hygienist at the request of dentists working within Community Dental Services (CDS). (Domiciliary care and use of a mobile dental unit may be involved.) The duties of a dental therapist will include the following as detailed in the GDC scope of practice:
 - Replace crowns with a temporary cement in an emergency
 - Remove excess cement using instruments which may include rotary instruments
 - Take impressions
 - To administer inferior dental nerve block anesthesia
 - Restore primary teeth by means of pulp therapy
 - Restore primary teeth by the placement of preformed crowns.
 - Obtain a detailed dental history from patients and evaluate their medical history
 - Carry out a clinical examination within their competence
 - Complete periodontal examination and charting and use indices to screen and monitor periodontal disease
 - Prescribe radiographs
 - Provide preventive oral care to patients and liaise with dentists over the treatment of caries, periodontal disease and tooth wear
 - Undertake supragingival and subgingival scaling and root surface debridement using manual and powered instruments
 - Apply topical treatments and fissure sealants
 - Give patients advice on how to stop smoking
 - Take part in national epidemiological studies
 - Take part in local oral health screening

Training will be supported to develop additional skills such as administering inhalation sedation, according to clinical need.

3. To develop good communication with all members of the dental teams and referring practitioners. Ensure information reaches all team members and relevant professionals in cases where treatment is “shared”.
4. Produce and maintain accurate records of dental care, using computer systems where used within the service, complete appropriate NHS forms (e.g. FP17s forms) and assist with the data collection for service monitoring.
5. To assist in the management and maintenance of stock and equipment to ensure dental therapy services are maintained.
6. To develop information for patients on relevant subjects.
7. To assist in organisational duties to ensure the smooth running of the dental services, including:
 - to ensure that the appointment diary is used efficiently in planning a session’s clinical activity
 - collect and receipt patients’ charges in accordance with NHS Regulations and ensure safe keeping of monies through banking in accordance with CDS Standing Financial Instructions.
8. Undertake training provided within CDS and demonstrate commitment to continuing dental education.
9. Active participation in clinical audit programmes, peer review and clinical governance initiatives.
10. Observe all CDS policies and procedures and maintain the Employee Confidentiality Code of Conduct at all times. Maintain a safe working environment complying with the requirements of the Health and Safety Act and Data Protection Act.
11. The post is clinic based. The post holder may be asked to undertake duties in other clinics within CDS and other Health service establishments when required for holiday or sickness relief or temporary redeployment.
12. Provide training for dental nurses / employees as required by the service.

This job profile is not intended to be a complete list of duties and responsibilities but is a guide to the job and will be subject to periodic review and alteration in response to changing service requirements and in consultation with the post holder.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job title: Dental Therapist

Factors	Essential requirements	Desirable requirements	Measurement e.g. <i>Application form</i> <i>CV/Assessment/</i> <i>Interview</i>
Education & Qualifications: E.g. level of education, professional qualification, registration requirements, evidence of further professional development, etc.	Diploma in Dental Therapy Certificate of Proficiency in Dental Hygiene		Application form Application form
Knowledge: E.g. Requirement of technical expertise or knowledge specific to the role	Trained to undertake additional therapy duties Knowledge of current and future changes within the dental profession	Knowledge of Community Dental Services and General Dental Services	Application form /Interview
Experience: Previous experience relevant to the post E.g. experience necessary to effectively perform role		Experience of dental therapy/hygiene practice in different settings Post qualification experience Experience of treating patients with special needs Experience of dealing with cash transactions Experience of ordering dental supplies	Application form /Interview Application form /Interview Application form Interview Interview

Factors	Essential requirements	Desirable requirements	Measurement e.g. Application form CV/Assessment/ Interview
Skills and Ability: Additional expertise acquired through practice or training which is a requirement of the post E.g. team leadership, motivational or organisational skills, communication skills etc.	Good communication skills, including clear and accurate written skills Good patient management skills Modern skills of dental therapy and hygiene Willingness to learn new skills	Competency at treating patients with inhalation sedation Experience with using R4 computer software	Application form /Interview Interview Application form /Interview Application form /Interview
Personal Qualities: Special aptitudes relating to the demands of the post E.g. Team player, flexible	Commitment to a high standard of patient care Ability to work as a member of a team Patient, calm and able to work under pressure Ability to travel independently		Application form /Interview Interview Interview Interview