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help you thrive

# Oral Health Practitioner Apprenticeship

Blended Learning Programme

# Oral Health Practitioner Level 4 Apprenticeship

Learn the unique skills to promote and protect the oral and overall health and wellbeing of individuals, groups and communities! The Level 4 Oral Health Practitioner Apprenticeship equips dental professionals with the expertise to carry out a range of preventative procedures and deliver oral and general health screening and education.

The qualification includes the theories and principles of behaviour change, health inequalities, how to conduct a motivational consultation and specialist units in oral health. This course elevates Dental Nurses and other appropriate dental care professionals to work collaboratively with Dentists, Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists, working to improve the oral health of patients, as well as broader health and wellbeing education within the community.



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## Apprenticeship Overview

The Oral Health Practitioner Apprenticeship is a 14 month, government funded qualification and is comprised of 3 main components:

Oral Health Practitioner Apprenticeship Standard including [level 4 Diploma](#).

[Functional Skills](#) English and Maths Level 2 qualifications (unless exempt).

Integrated [End Point Assessment](#) consisting of an MCQ exam, observation and professional discussion.

This qualification is delivered by our blended learning platform via a combination of online webinars, clinical regional workshops and workplace assessments.

### Apprenticeship Start Dates

January  
April  
July  
October



# Learning Outcomes

By completing this course, learners will study and understand

The principles of health improvement, and how to promote change

Supporting behaviour change to improve an individual's health

How to deliver an NHS Health Check and the key indicators to assess risk of cardiovascular disease

Professional, ethical, and legal requirements for Oral Health Practitioners

Health inequalities and the ability to adapt procedures accordingly

How to conduct motivational consultations

Anatomy, physiology, and nutrition for Oral Health Practitioners

Understand clinical practice for Oral Health Practitioners

Carry out Oral Health Practitioner clinical practice

Understand preventative practice for Oral Health Practitioners

Carry out Oral Health Practitioner preventative practice

Understand the role of the Oral Health Practitioner



## Course Structure

Government funded learners must be allocated 6 hours of their working week by their employer for off the job (OTJ) Oral Health Practitioner training, including all forms of team inclusive CPD. OTJ training generally includes classroom sessions, webinars, workshops and assessor support.

### The Blended Learning Programme

#### Teaching through webinars

Learners attend interactive teaching sessions on Microsoft Teams.

#### Interactive e-learning

Learners complete interactive content, watch engaging presentations and videos, and knowledge test with quizzes.

### Assessor contact

Learners can take advantage of fantastic support from their Tutor Assessor as much as they need (daily if required).

The learner's workplace Assessor will make a minimum of 3 visits to the dental practice during the course to carry out observations.

### Clinical Face-to-Face Training

Acquisition of additional skills for a Dental Nurse:

- Positioning the patient correctly in the dental chair
- Measuring and recording plaque indices
- Taking impressions and carrying out intra-oral scanning
- Applying topical fluoride
- Undertaking intra and extra oral photography
- Carrying out intra-oral hygiene instruction
- Taking finger-prick blood tests and blood pressure



## End Point Assessment (EPA)

1 hour **multiple choice question exam**

**Demonstration of practice** within their clinical setting  
(1 hour observation followed by a 30 minute question  
and answer session)

45 minute **professional discussion\***

\* Further time may be granted for apprentices with appropriate  
needs, for example where signing services are required.

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## Exam information

The following exams may be taken under invigilated  
conditions at the learner's workplace:

EPA multiple choice question exam

Maths Functional Skills exam (unless exempt)

English Reading Functional Skills exam (unless exempt)

English Writing Functional Skills exam (unless exempt)

Functional Skills tutoring will commence approximately  
one month prior to the apprenticeship starting.

# Course Benefits

## Learner benefits

- The Oral Health Practitioner Apprenticeship provides a pathway for candidates wishing to progress to a Dental Hygienist or dental therapy training.
- Unlocks a high degree of autonomy within a Oral Health Practitioner role, providing community support and education.
- Oral Health Practitioners progress to working within the patient's mouth. This includes taking bacterial plaque indices, applying fluoride varnish and taking impressions.
- Provides experience in the wider health field, working within communities to complete NHS Health Checks to determine risks of cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

## Employer benefits

- This apprenticeship is a great way for employers to invest in their GDC qualified Dental Nurses, retaining their talent and providing career satisfaction.
- The Oral Health Practitioner will be able to work clinically in their clinical settings, freeing up Dentists, Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists from carrying out oral hygiene instruction and preventative treatments.
- Use flexible commissioning to pay for your Oral Health Practitioner to either work in your dental practice, or within community settings such as schools, care homes and community groups, where they can also refer individuals to your dental practice.
- Flexible commissioning – Oral Health Practitioners are well placed to undertake the preventative aspects of flexible commissioning.





“ I would  
recommend  
Tempdent  
**1 million**  
times if I could.”

## Entry Requirements

- Candidates must already be a GDC registered Dental Nurse or appropriate dental care professional working within a dental practice for a minimum of 30 hours per week. In rare circumstances the learner can work shorter hours, but the length of the qualification would need to be extended accordingly.
- In order to complete the blended learning activity, learners must have access to a computer/ laptop with internet, microphone and speaker connectivity.
- Candidates should be Functional English Skills exempt. If non-exempt candidates are already operating at level 2, we may be able to accept them on to the apprenticeship. This is considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Candidates should hold Maths Level 2 qualifications. Candidates operating at this level are exempt from the Functional Skills training. If candidates have attained qualifications of a similar level, we will review this on a case-by-case basis.
- Those who do not have Level 2 Maths and English qualifications (or equivalent) will complete Functional Skills training as part of the apprenticeship.

## Enrolment Process

Enrolments are completed through an online meeting scheduled at a time convenient for you. This meeting will be led by our Onboarding Team, with the Mentor/Practice Manager and the prospective apprentice in attendance. During the meeting, all necessary paperwork will be completed, we will answer any additional questions and discuss the next steps.

Once you have completed the enrolment process, you will receive an acceptance letter for the next intake and gain access to our 'safe beginner' induction programme to prepare for the apprenticeship. At this stage, we also run drop-in sessions where you can meet and ask questions.

If you require any support please contact our Onboarding Team at [academysupport@tempdent.co.uk](mailto:academysupport@tempdent.co.uk) or 020 8371 6700.

## Fees and funding

This apprenticeship is government funded. **Levy paying employers will fund the full cost from their levy.**

**For non-levy paying companies** (e.g. a traditional dental practice), the apprenticeship will be fully government funded for 16-21 year-olds.

**For apprentices 22 years and over,** the fees will be part funded (95%) by government with the remaining 5% funded by the employer.

We have access to **NHS levy transfer funding** – which will cover the full fees for 22 years+ non levy learners – subject to eligibility.

## Course fees payable by employer

**Apprentice Age:** 16-21  
**Non-levy SME:** Fully government funded (no fee)  
**Levy (payroll of £3M plus per year):** £9000

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**Apprentice Age:** 22+  
**Non-levy SME:** For practices who hold an NHS dental contract (no matter how small) no costs will be payable as they will be met through the NHS levy transfer.

For practices without an NHS contract, they will be required to pay a 5% contribution of £450 +VAT.

# The role of an Oral Health Practitioner

## Typical role overview

As an Oral Health Practitioner, you will have a high degree of autonomy and responsibility, directly engaging with patients to perform a range of oral health preventive procedures and oral health education. Your role is pivotal within the dental career structure, operating at a level between the Dental Nurse and the Dental Hygienist/Dental Therapist.

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## Key responsibilities

**Direct patient care:** Perform various oral health preventive procedures, working within clinical environments and community settings to deliver essential oral health education and promotion.

**Education and outreach:** Provide oral health education to diverse groups, including caregivers for older adults, antenatal groups, early years groups, primary and secondary schools, care homes, and community settings.

**Systemic Health Check:** Conduct an NHS Health Check e.g. taking blood pressure.

**Community engagement:** Work in a variety of environments, including hospitals, general dental practices, child and adolescent mental health services, and 'care at home' situations, ensuring broad community impact.

**Scope of practice:** Operate within your professional scope of practice, carry out additional skills as permissible by Dentists, Dental Hygienists, Dental Therapists and Clinical Dental Technicians.

This rewarding role requires a combination of clinical expertise, independence, and the ability to educate and engage with a wide range of community members, contributing to overall public health and wellbeing.

## Making a difference

Oral Health Practitioners play a crucial role in maintaining and improving oral health. The benefits of their work are extensive, impacting both oral and overall health. Here are some key benefits:

### Prevention of Oral Diseases

Help prevent common dental issues like cavities, gum disease, and oral infections. Early detection and intervention prevents minor issues from becoming major problems.

### Enhanced Aesthetic & Functional Outcomes

Help prevent common dental issues like cavities, gum disease, and oral infections.

Early detection and intervention prevents minor issues from becoming major problems.



### Improved Overall Health

Oral Health Practitioners can identify signs of systemic disease.



### Education & Promotion of Oral Hygiene

Providing personalised advice and tools for maintaining good oral hygiene at home for individual patients and in wider group settings.



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