

# End-point assessment plan for Dental Nurse fully integrated apprenticeship standard

Apprenticeship standard number	Level of this end-point assessment (EPA)	Integrated
ST0113	3	Yes

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## Introduction and overview

Dental Nurses are subject to statutory regulation by the General Dental Council (GDC). The GDC set the standards of competence required for entry to the professional register and these are the occupational standards for Dental Nurses. The GDC have the statutory duty to set requirements of programmes necessary to support the achievement of the knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSBs) in the occupational standard. The apprenticeship standard and the delivery of the apprentices training must be aligned to all relevant GDC standards to ensure that apprentices are eligible for registration with the GDC on completion. It is against the law for anyone to work as a Dental Nurse without being registered with the GDC. The end-point assessment (EPA) assesses whether apprentices have also passed the apprenticeship, and is based on the same professional knowledge, skills and behaviours as the occupational standard.

This document sets out the requirements for EPA for the Dental Nurse fully integrated apprenticeship standard. It is for the end-point assessment organisations (EPAO), that must be an organisation recognised by the GDC to provide a qualification leading to registration as a Dental Nurse, who need to know how EPA for this apprenticeship must operate. It will also be of interest to apprentices and their employers.

Apprentices will typically spend 18 months on-programme working towards the occupational standard.

The EPA period should only start, and the EPA be arranged, once the employer and education provider are satisfied that the apprentice is consistently working at or above the level set out in the occupational standard and all of the pre-requisite gateway requirements for EPA have been met. It is expected that the gateway will be reached on completion of all qualification units except the assessment unit.

The EPA period is expected to last a maximum of 1 month beginning when the apprentice has passed the EPA gateway.

The EPA will determine the overall apprenticeship standard and grades of:

- fail
- pass

This apprenticeship has a fully integrated EPA. The EPA will use the assessment arrangements in use for other entry routes into this occupation and will be completed simultaneously, as outlined in this end-point assessment plan. Alignment of the EPA is permitted because the following criteria are met:

1. Parliament has prescribed that the occupation (profession) must be regulated and a statutory regulator has undisputed control of access to the occupation.
2. The aligned integrated EPA meets the requirements of an apprenticeship.

## EPA summary table

<b>On-programme</b> (typically 18 months)	Training to develop the Dental Nurse occupation standards knowledge, skills and behaviours (aligned to 'Preparing for practice Dental team learning outcomes for registration' (2015 revised edition) (GDC 2015)
<b>End-point assessment gateway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apprentice has met the knowledge, skills and behaviours</li> <li>• Employer and the training provider are satisfied the apprentice has consistently demonstrated they meet the KSBs of the occupational standard</li> <li>• Achieved English and mathematics at Level 2</li> <li>• Achieved all required units, taking into account any recognition of prior learning (RPL) of the following approved qualification:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GDC approved Dental Nurse integrated qualification at Level 3 except the assessment unit</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>End-point assessment</b> (which would typically take place within 1 month)	The EPA consists of the assessment unit. The apprentice is not required to carry out any additional assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The apprentice must pass the assessment unit</li> </ul>
<b>Professional recognition</b>	Registration with: General Dental Council

## Gateway

The EPA period should only start once the employer and the training provider are satisfied that the apprentice is consistently working at or above the level set out in the occupational standard.

The EPA period starts when the apprentice has completed all units in the GDC approved qualification at Level 3 except the assessment unit and finishes when the apprentice undertakes the assessment unit.

The apprentice must have completed the following gateway requirements prior to beginning their EPA:

- Achieved English and mathematics at level 2.  
For those with an education, health and care plan or a legacy statement the apprenticeships English and mathematics minimum requirement is Entry Level 3 and British Sign Language qualification are an alternative to English qualifications for whom this is their primary language.
- Achieved all required units, taking into account any recognition of prior learning (RPL) of the following approved qualification:
  - GDC approved Dental Nurse integrated qualification at Level 3 except the assessment unit

The apprentice separately applies for registration once they have achieved a pass. The GDC uses the pass list to verify successful completion of the apprenticeship programme

## EPA

The EPA is:

**The GDC approved integrated qualification assessment unit**

Independence of the EPA will be assured through:

- Ofqual
- the end-point assessment organisation will be the integrated awarding organisation

## Apprenticeship Grading

Name of grade	Grade descriptor
Pass	Has met the standards for Dental Nurses set out in Preparing for practice Dental team learning outcomes for registration (2015 revised edition) (GDC 2015)
Fail	Does not meet the standards for Dental Nurses set out in Preparing for practice Dental team learning outcomes for registration (2015 revised edition) (GDC 2015)

## Roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Apprentice	As a minimum, the apprentice should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• complete the constituent parts of the programme successfully</li> <li>• meet all apprenticeship gateway requirements</li> <li>• understand the structure and requirements of the apprenticeship</li> </ul>
Employer	As a minimum, the employer should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support the apprentice to achieve the KSBs outlined in the occupational standard</li> <li>• determine when the apprentice is working at or above the level of occupational competence outlined in the occupational standard and has met all apprenticeship gateway requirements, taking account of the advice of the training provider</li> </ul>
Training Provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advises the employer when the apprentice has achieved the on programme requirements and is ready to undertake the EPA</li> <li>• Is Registered on the Education and Skills Funding Agency Register of Apprentice Training Providers</li> </ul>
The EPAO (GDC recognised integrated qualification awarding organisation)	As a minimum the EPAO will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be on the Register of end-point assessment organisations (RoEPAO)</li> <li>• be approved by the General Dental Council to deliver the qualification</li> <li>• offer an integrated qualification that is regulated by Ofqual and includes an assessment unit</li> <li>• confirm to the employer that gateway requirements have been met</li> <li>• use appropriate recording documentation to ensure a clear and auditable mechanism for recording the decisions</li> <li>• maintain robust internal quality assurance (IQA) procedures and processes, and conduct these on a regular basis</li> <li>• conform to the requirements of the nominated external quality assurance body</li> <li>• conduct standardisation events and activities in accordance external quality assurance (EQA) provider's requirements</li> <li>• have, and operate, an appeals process</li> <li>• arrange for apprenticeship certification</li> </ul>

## Internal Quality Assurance (IQA)

Internal quality assurance refers to the requirements that EPAO's must have in place to ensure consistent (reliable) and accurate (valid) assessment decisions. EPAO's for this EPA must:

- appoint independent assessors who are occupationally competent across the whole occupational standard i.e. a General Dental Council registrant with appropriate post-registration clinical experience and up-to-date continuing professional development.
- appoint independent assessors who have recent relevant experience of the occupation/sector at least the same level as a dental nurse. The independent assessor will have the following minimum skills, knowledge and occupational competence:
  - hold or be working towards an assessor qualification
  - have experience of assessing at this level
- provide training for independent assessors in terms of good assessment practice, operating the assessment tools and grading.
- have robust quality assurance systems and procedures that support fair, reliable and consistent assessment across the organisation and over time.
- operate induction training and standardisation events for independent assessors when they begin working for the EPAO on this standard and before they deliver an updated assessment method for the first time.
- ensure independent assessors attend standardisation events on an ongoing basis and at least once per year.

## Reasonable adjustments

The EPAO must have in place clear and fair arrangements for making reasonable adjustments for this apprenticeship standard. This should include how an apprentice qualifies for reasonable adjustments and what reasonable adjustments will be made. The adjustments must maintain the validity, reliability and integrity of the assessment decisions outlined in this EPA plan.

## Re-sits and re-takes

In line with the EPAO's procedures.

## Professional body recognition

This apprenticeship aligns with requirements for registration with the General Dental Council.