

End-point assessment plan for Dental nurse apprenticeship standard

Apprenticeship standard number	Level of this end-point assessment (EPA)	Integrated
ST1431	3	Statutory integrated

Contents

Introduction and overview	2
EPA summary table	3
Gateway	4
EPA	5
Grading.....	6
Roles and responsibilities	6
Internal Quality Assurance (IQA).....	8
Re-sits and re-takes.....	8
Professional body recognition	8
Reasonable adjustments	8

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 statutory 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 the components of a GDC recognised awarding organisation qualification or accredited programme provided by a recognised training provider.

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 statutory 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. the occupation (profession) must be regulated by a statutory regulator that carries out a range of functions in relation to the occupations they regulate, including making sure individuals have the necessary qualifications and/or experience to practise the occupation and taking any necessary enforcement action
2. the occupational standard and statutory integrated EPA meet the apprenticeship requirements

EPA summary table

On-programme (typically 18 months)	Training to develop the Dental nurse occupation standards knowledge, skills and behaviours (aligned to GDC 'The Safe Practitioner: A framework of behaviours and outcomes for dental professional education - 'Dental Nurse' November 2023)
End-point assessment gateway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprentice has met the knowledge, skills and behaviours • Employer and the training provider are satisfied the apprentice has consistently demonstrated they meet the KSBs of the occupational standard • The apprentice must have achieved English and maths qualifications in line with the apprenticeship funding rules. • Achieved all required units, taking into account any recognition of prior learning (RPL) of the following approved qualification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A qualification approved by the GDC to enable professional registration with GDC as a Dental Nurse
End-point assessment (which would typically take place within 1 month)	<p>The EPA starts with the examination board (HEI) or Awarding Organisation / training provider external quality assurance scrutiny of claimed qualification or programme and finishes when the recognised course provider sends the certified list of apprentices to the GDC. The apprentice is not required to carry out any additional assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validation by the examination board (HEI) or external quality assurer scrutiny of claimed certificates from the Awarding Organisation / training provider • List of certified apprentices sent to the GDC by the recognised awarding organisation or accredited programme provider
Professional recognition	Registration with: General Dental Council

Gateway

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

The EPA starts with the examination board (HEI) or Awarding Organisation / training provider external quality assurance scrutiny of claimed certificates and finishes when GDC recognised provider:

- makes a decision on pass or fail.
- the Approved Education Provider emails a secure pass list to GDC which includes required personal details of apprentices who have received a pass

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

- Achieved English and mathematics qualifications in line with the apprenticeship funding rules.
- Achieved all required units, taking into account any recognition of prior learning (RPL) of the following approved qualification:
 - A qualification approved by the GDC to enable professional registration with GDC as a Dental Nurse

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 statutory process aligned with the regulator's requirements and must have an external examiner present when considering achievement of the GDC recognised Dental nurse qualification or programme or confirmation of achievement through external quality assurance undertaken by an Awarding Organisation in line with a GDC recognised qualification or programme

The EPA starts with the examination board (HEI) and finishes when the recognised course provider sends the certified list of apprentices to the GDC. The apprentice is not required to carry out any additional assessments

or

The EPA starts with the Awarding Organisation / training provider external quality assurance scrutiny of claimed qualification or programme and finishes when the recognised course provider sends the certified list of apprentices to the GDC. The apprentice is not required to carry out any additional assessments

Independence of the EPA will be assured through:

- the examination board, which will include an external and appropriately qualified person or organisation, that is not an employee of the course provider and has no involvement with the pre-registration apprentice dental nurse in their day-to-day work being responsible for the final decision on the GDC approved Dental nurse qualification or programme and confirms the apprentice has met the education outcomes required for registration with the GDC or the end-point assessment organisation which will conduct the EPA in line with quality assurance processes associated with a recognised qualification accepted for registration with the GDC;

or

- confirmation of achievement through external quality assurer scrutiny of claimed certificates from the Awarding Organisation in line with a GDC recognised qualification or programme

Apprenticeship Grading

Name of grade	Grade descriptor
Pass	Has met the standards for Dental Nurses set out in 'The Safe Practitioner: A framework of behaviours and outcomes for dental professional education - 'Dental Nurse' November 2023)
Fail	Does not meet the standards for Dental Nurses set out in 'The Safe Practitioner: A framework of behaviours and outcomes for dental professional education - 'Dental Nurse' November 2023)

Roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Apprentice	As a minimum, the apprentice should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> complete the constituent parts of the programme successfully meet all apprenticeship gateway requirements understand the structure and requirements of the apprenticeship
Employer	As a minimum, the employer should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> support the apprentice to achieve the KSBs outlined in the occupational standard 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 GDC approved training provider
Training Provider (GDC approved)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> advises the employer when the apprentice has achieved the on-programme requirements and is ready to undertake the EPA conform to the requirements of the apprenticeship provider and assessment register is recognised by the GDC to deliver a Dental nurse qualification recognised by the GDC
The EPAO (GDC approved programme or qualification awarding organisation)	As a minimum the EPAO will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> conform to the requirements of the apprenticeship provider and assessment register be approved by the General Dental Council to award the qualification confirm to the employer that gateway requirements have been met

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use appropriate recording documentation to ensure a clear and auditable mechanism for recording the decisions • maintain robust internal quality assurance (IQA) procedures and processes, and conduct these on a regular basis • conform to the requirements of the nominated external quality assurance body • conduct standardisation events and activities in accordance external quality assurance (EQA) provider’s requirements • have, and operate, an appeals process • arrange for apprenticeship certification
<p>External examiner / Independent Assessor (HEI)</p>	<p>There will be one individual with the following responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Examiner in line with QAA Guidance on External Examiners/ Expertise for HE programmes • Independent Assessor who as a minimum should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ understand the occupational standard and end-point assessment plan ○ be a registered Dental nurse ○ comply to the requirements of the EPAO (GDC Approved Education Institution) ○ be independent of the apprentice, and the employing organisation who are involved in delivering the apprenticeship ○ not have been involved in the teaching or on-programme assessment of the apprentice other than in their role under point 1 above • 3. External Examiner for the end-point assessment who will carry out required activities on behalf of the EQA provider
<p>External quality assurer (awarding organisation / training provider)</p>	<p>As a minimum an external quality assurer (awarding organisation / training provider) should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the occupational standard and end-point assessment plan • be a registered Dental nurse • comply to the requirements of the EPAO (GDC recognised Education Provider delivering a GDC accredited programme or recognised qualification awarding organisation) • be independent of the apprentice, and the employing organisation who are involved in delivering the apprenticeship

- | | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not have been involved in the teaching or on-programme assessment |
|--|---|

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:
 - have recent relevant experience of the occupation/sector at least the same level as a Dental nurse.
 - meet the EQA provider's recommendations for external examiners or external quality assurer scrutiny of claimed certificates for the Awarding Organisation

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.