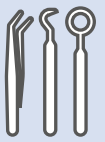


# Careers in dental nursing



Dental nurses play a key role within the dental team, supporting dental professionals with all aspects of patient care – from sterilising instruments to helping to keep patients at ease.

## What do dental nurses do?

Dental nurses have a number of key duties relating to health and safety and infection control, these include the decontaminating and sterilising instruments, cleaning of the surgery and stocking all necessary equipment. Dental nurses are also required to support with patient care, from assisting dental professionals with treatment including the passing of instruments to taking a key role in supporting the patient.

## What skills do I need to be a good dental nurse?

- calm, friendly and have excellent communication skills are key for being a good dental nurse, with the ability to adapt your style to patients of all ages and needs
- you will need to be an excellent team player
- you need to be organised, have a good attention to detail and also be thorough in your work to make sure that everything is prepared to the highest standard
- you will also need to have good IT skills to carry out activities such as note taking.

## Where do dental nurses work?

- general dental practices
- community clinics
- hospitals
- prisons.

## What opportunities are available to dental nurses?

- take on extended duties such as taking x-rays
- undertake qualifications for example to give oral health advice
- progress into new roles such as practice management or public health.

## How do I become a dental nurse?

To become a registered dental nurse with the General Dental Council (GDC) you will need to undertake a training programme which can take between 18 months to three years to complete and achieve a diploma in dental nursing.

The programme is made up of two parts. Firstly, providing you with valuable experience, you are required to work a number of days a week within general practice. Then secondly you are required to attend college (typically once a week) to build your knowledge and work towards your diploma assessments.

**Want to find out more?**

**Careersville:** <https://careersville.heiw.wales>

**NHS Wales Careers:** [www.nhswalescareers.com](http://www.nhswalescareers.com)