

Careers in orthodontic therapy



Relatively new to the dental team, orthodontic therapists play a key role in the delivery of orthodontic treatments, supporting orthodontists to straighten patient teeth and achieve perfect smiles!

What do orthodontic therapists do?

Working to the instruction of an orthodontist, the role of an orthodontic therapist is to help treat patients who need their teeth aligning. The role of the orthodontic therapist can cover the full orthodontic experience.

This may start with fitting braces and providing advice on how to care for them correctly, right through to taking moulds of the teeth, removing the braces and finally placing retainers on a patient's teeth to make sure they remain in the same position once they have been straightened.

What skills do I need to be a good orthodontic therapist?

- explaining information to patients and working closely with the orthodontic team will require you to have good communication skills
- you will need to have a calm, friendly and personable nature to enable you to make patients to feel at ease during appointments
- as a practical role, a high level of manual dexterity is required to enable you to use various tools and carry out treatments with precision
- you will need to have good eyesight
- able to work well as part of a team
- you will also need to be organised, have good attention to detail and have good IT skills.

Where do orthodontic therapists work?

Orthodontic therapists work across a range of settings:

- general dental practices
- community clinics
- hospitals.

How do I become an orthodontic therapist?

Step one: in order to pursue a career in orthodontic therapy you must be a qualified dental professional. The role of an orthodontic therapist is a popular career choice amongst dental nurses but is also open to dental hygienists, therapists and technicians.

Step two: you will need to undergo 45 weeks of full-time training (or part-time equivalent) and achieve a diploma in orthodontic therapy.

Want to find
out more?

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

NHS Wales Careers: www.nhswalescareers.com