DENTAL NURSE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A Dental Nurse works closely with the dentist, providing assistance in the surgery. This includes preparation of the surgery, chair side assistance, sterilisation, care of instruments and preparation of fillings and other materials used in dentistry. The Nurse maintains sterile conditions in the surgery and ensures that health and safety policy is adhered to. They record dental information about each patient, carry out stock control and may process x-rays. In general practice, Dental Nurses may also help out on reception and with general administration.

Dental Nurses are employed in general practices, the NHS, hospitals, community dental services, industry, universities and the Armed Forces.

INDUSTRY REQUIREMENTS

Since the 31 July 2006, Dental Nurses have been able to voluntarily join the General Dental Council (GDC) register. By July 2008, it will be mandatory for all practising Dental Nurses in the UK to be on the GDC register.

During the two year transitional period beginning on 31 July 2006 a Dental Nurse will be granted membership and registration when the candidate can prove they have four years’ full-time experience in the last eight years.

After the two years transitional period a Dental Nurse will be required to hold a qualification that is approved by the GDC. See Annex 1 for a list of approved qualifications.

REGISTRATION WITH A PROFESSIONAL BODY

Registration with the GDC is compulsory for all Dental Nurses by 31 July 2008. After this date it will be illegal to work as, and use the title of, Dental Nurse without being registered with the GDC.

Additional, information on registration for EEA, and non-EEA, national can be found in Annex 2.

CASEWORKER TREATMENT

The post of Dental Nurse meets the skills criteria when it requires the Overseas National (OSN) to be registered with the GDC.

The applicant should hold a five digit registration number to verify their registration. Caseworkers should always check the GDC Register to confirm that a Dental Technician / Clinical Dental Technician is registered with the GDC.

http://www.gdc-uk.org/Search+our+registers
For applications approved before 31 July 2008 caseworkers should include paragraph P70H in approvals.

**TWES**

**Training**

This occupation is not suitable for TWES training.

**Work Experience**

The job meets the TWES criteria for work experience where the post is additional to the normal staffing requirements of the company and the work experience programme is of a standard at, or above, NVQ level 3. Workers should already have an academic/vocational qualification at least equivalent to NVQ Level 3 or previous relevant work experience at a level equivalent to NVQ Level 3. The employer should provide a work experience programme and a timetable for each stage of the programme and information on who will be supervising the worker.

**SALARY DETAILS**

The following salary information is taken from the NHS Agenda for Change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job</th>
<th>Band</th>
<th>Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental Nurse Entry Level</td>
<td>Band 3</td>
<td>£14,437 - £17,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Nurse</td>
<td>Band 4</td>
<td>£16,853 - £20,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Nurse Team Leader</td>
<td>Band 5</td>
<td>£19,683 - £25,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Nurse Specialist</td>
<td>Band 5</td>
<td>£19,683 - £25,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Nurse Team Manager</td>
<td>Band 6</td>
<td>£23,458 - £31,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Nurse Tutor</td>
<td>Band 6</td>
<td>£23,458 - £31,779</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional allowances may be paid regionally.

Salaries in the private sector are broadly comparable with those in the public sector.

**ADVERTISING**

Acceptable advertising includes job centres, the National press or relevant specialist trade publications.

**British Dental Nurses Journal**

British Association of Dental Nurses (BADN)
Room 200
Hillhouse International Business Centre
PO Box 4
ANNEX 1

To gain access onto the GDC register, a Dental Nurse will be required to achieve one of the following:

- The National Examining Board for Dental Nurses (NEBDN) National Certificate examination, plus 24 months experience
- The NVQ Level 3 in Oral Healthcare: Dental Nursing
- A Certificate of Proficiency in Dental Nursing awarded by a recognised Dental Hospital
- The Certificate of Higher Education in Dental Nursing offered by the School of Professionals Complementary to Dentistry, at the University of Portsmouth

ANNEX 2

There are two types of registration with the GDC:

Full Registration – This allows the candidate to lawfully practice dentistry in the United Kingdom.

- Temporary Registration – This allows the candidate to lawfully practice dentistry in the United Kingdom.
- Temporary Registration – This allows the candidate to practice dentistry under supervision with specific restrictions, whereby registration is only valid for the dates stated and in the hospital(s) or institution(s) listed in their registration certificate.

British Nationals can qualify automatically for Full Registration, while, there are three different routes which an EEA (and Switzerland) or non-EEA can take in order to gain Full Registration:

- Qualifying Applications
- Assessment Route
- Overseas Registration Examination (ORE)

Caseworkers should check that an OSN’s degree is eligible for temporary registration, by clicking on the link below –

http://www.gdc-uk.org/Potential+registrant/Temporary+registration/Recognised+Universities+-+Temporary+Registration.htm