

Grading

The apprentice must achieve at least a Pass in both elements of their EPA or their overall result will be 'fail'. An apprentice can pass the Observation in Practice and achieve a Distinction in the Professional Discussion to achieve an overall Distinction grade.

The CACHE grading criteria will outline the evidence required against each of the Dental Nurse Apprenticeship Standard competencies.

Progression

Once the Level 3 Dental Nurse Apprenticeship is complete, the learning doesn't stop. A suggested apprenticeship pathway is illustrated below.



Delivery and pricing

CACHE is committed to offer value for money, high quality EPAs. Our 'digital first' approach provides flexible assessment methods for apprentices that limit the impact on the productivity of their working day. This enables us to provide the EPA for Dental Nurse at a highly competitive rate. For levy payers within their digital account limit, 100% of this price is covered by government funding. For non-levy payers, 90% is covered and just 10% requires an employer contribution.

100%

of the price is covered with government funding for levy payers within their limit.

10%

employer contribution for non-levy payers.

Why CACHE?

With over 70 years of assessment experience, we are a 'digital first' apprenticeship assessment organisation, making use of innovative new technology approaches to enhance the delivery and management of assessment. As the UK's leading sector specialist, our expertise and continued investment in high quality qualifications has enabled us to maintain and build our deserved reputation for excellence and leadership.

CACHE; Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education; and NNEB are registered trademarks owned by NCFE. Any reference to CACHE or Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education registered address, company or charity numbers should be deemed to mean NCFE. NCFE is a charity registered in England and Wales with registration number 1034808. NCFE is a private company limited by guarantee in England & Wales with Registered Company Number: 02896700.

Let's get to work.

Visit: cache.org.uk/epa | Call: 0191 240 8950 | Email: epa@ncfe.org.uk

UP TO **£6k**
GOVERNMENT
FUNDING BAND

TYPICAL DURATION **18-24mth**
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME

Level 3
A LEVEL EQUIVALENT

Dental Nurse

Apprenticeship Standard CACHE Solution Brief

Overview

Delivering front line support for the profession, the Dental Nurse provides chair-side support to dental professionals and delivers a high level of patient care. With a thorough understanding of dental anatomy and skills with commonly used dental materials and equipment, your Dental Nurse apprentice is vital to the operations and customer focus of the practice.

Your apprentice will undergo an 18–24 month apprenticeship training programme at Level 3, achieve Level 2 English and maths and a qualification which has been approved by the General Dental Council as meeting the requirements for entry to the professional register. Throughout the end-point assessment (EPA) CACHE will ensure a rigorous and professional assessment process to ensure that high standards of quality required by this sector are maintained.

Role profile

Complementing the role of other dental professionals, Dental Nurses may work in a variety of clinical environments. This apprenticeship standard reflects all aspects of a Dental Nurse's clinical responsibilities and duties, providing the apprentice with the relevant qualification to apply to the General Dental Council (GDC) for professional registration as a Dental Nurse. Dental Nurses are registered professionals and work within the standards and scope of practice defined by the GDC Scope of Practice document (September 2013).

Apprenticeship journey

Mock Assessments

Ensuring everyone has the most accurate expectations of EPA is essential. Providing mock assessment materials and guidance for all of our assessment methodologies, we empower providers and apprentices to structure learning towards the EPA format to assure the best chance of success.

Gateway

The decision to take an apprentice through Gateway is made between the employer, Independent Training Provider (ITP) and apprentice. The apprentice must have achieved all the required on-programme elements before they enter Gateway. We provide a Gateway guide to all of our providers to support them with this process. This ensures that the apprentice is only put forward when they are ready and comfortable to take the EPA.

End-Point Assessment

Defined by the employer-led trailblazer action group, the assessment plan for Dental Nurse has 2 modes of assessment: an Observation in Practice and a Professional Discussion. CACHE will ensure the appropriate allocation of the Independent End-Point Assessor (IEPA) to see each apprentice through all modes of assessment and assure consistent quality of assessment.

Certification

Once the IEPA verifies the apprentice has successfully completed all EPAs, CACHE will activate certification. Working with the apprenticeship certificate issuing authority, we'll ensure the apprentice receives their certificate – a worthy recognition of their hard work and achievement and the currency that can help further their career.

1

2

3

4


End-point assessments

Observation in Practice

The Observation in Practice is undertaken by the IEPA in the apprentice's workplace and must last for 60 minutes in total (plus or minus 10 minutes at the discretion of the IEPA). This is essential to assess the retention of learned skills. The Observation in Practice must always be carried out first, before the Professional Discussion. The apprentice will be required to demonstrate that they are able to apply the knowledge, skills and behaviours required by the standard. This will be demonstrated by:

- Practicing safety by adhering to workplace and legislation for safe practice
- Showing an understanding of the role of the dental nurse
- Communicating appropriately with patients and team members
- Behaving professionally
- Acting within the limits of competence of a dental nurse
- Practicing accurately and consistently
- Selecting and using materials and equipment correctly
- Collecting and storing information and data correctly

 **ASSESSMENT DELIVERY** – on-site, at the apprentice's normal place of work, during which they will have the opportunity to demonstrate the above elements.


 **GRADE WEIGHTING** – the Observation in Practice is ungraded above a pass by the IEPA.


Professional Discussion

In this assessment module, the IEPA leads a 40 minute (plus or minus 10% at the discretion of the IEPA) discussion to allow the apprentice to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and behaviours. Apprentices can only undertake the Professional Discussion component once they have achieved a Pass in the Observation assessment. The scenario-based Professional Discussion will assess the apprentice's knowledge, skills and behaviours as set out in the Dental Nurse Standard.

Apprentices will be given 30 minutes to prepare their response to the scenario, which they will feed back on at the start of the Professional Discussion. The IEPA will then ask further questions based on the scenario and the apprentice's own experience working as a Dental Nurse. The IEPA will use a structured template and discussion points to cover any remaining areas of the standard.

An example scenario and discussion point (with exemplar response) is included in the CACHE professional discussion guidance.

 **ASSESSMENT DELIVERY** – digital-first, on-demand delivery via an online video conference or other appropriate platform.

 **GRADE WEIGHTING** – The Professional Discussion is graded as Pass or Distinction by the IEPA.