

Performers List Validation by Experience

Arrangements for Dentists on the Specialist Register without a Vocational Training or Dental Foundation Training Number

Some specialist dentists who apply to work in NHS primary care dental and are required to join the Performers List may not have a VT/DFT number. Provided that specialist only intends to carry out work within their specialty competence, it seems both unnecessary and inappropriate to require the specialist to return to carrying out routine dentistry procedures for the period of PLVE. In addition, there could be risks to patient safety if the individual has not carried out routine dental treatments for a significant period of time.

Performers List Regulation 34(4) states that 'A dental practitioner is exempt from the requirement to undertake foundation training if the dental practitioner is (c) judged, through an assessment by a post-graduate dental dean or director of postgraduate dental education to have knowledge and experience equivalent to that of a dental practitioner who has satisfactorily completed foundation training'. If, before they restricted their activity to their specialist area, the applicant carried out a similar level and range of clinical activity as one would expect from a Foundation Dentist, the clinical requirements for PLVE demonstration could be regarded as met and the PLVE requirements limited to a portfolio based on the non-clinical Domains e.g. GDS policy, GDS contracts, NHS Governance, CQC, etc. This allows the specialist to work in NHS primary care whilst compiling their portfolio in the same way as any other PLVE applicant.

Submission of a satisfactory portfolio would then result in a certificate or Dean's letter to the effect that specialist may be regarded as exempt from the requirement to undertake DFT provided clinical activity is restricted to their specialty.

For clinical governance and patient safety purposes, the relevant NHSE Area Team would need to place a condition on the applicant to the effect that their practice would be restricted to their specialty registration area, otherwise a further assessment would be required.

If a specialist applicant is not able to demonstrate previous clinical activity equivalent to DFT or is intending to carry out any clinical work outside their specialty area within a GDS/PDS contract, then the above arrangements would not apply.

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