

Aims of Dental Foundation Training

The aims of Dental Foundation Training for the General Dental Services (GDS) are to meet the needs of unsupervised general dental practitioners by developing the clinical skills learned as an undergraduate, and by teaching administration, governance and practice management skills to promote high ethical standards and quality care for patients.

These aims are achieved by:

1. introducing the Foundation Dentist to General Dental Practice;
2. identifying personal strengths and weaknesses and balancing them through a planned programme of training;
3. enabling the FD to practise and improve their skills free from undue financial pressure;
4. promoting the implementation of peer and self-reflection;
5. establishing the need for professional education, training and audit as a continuing process throughout the dentist's professional life.

Objectives of Dental Foundation Training

By the end of the Foundation year you should be eligible to practise unsupervised as a Principal within the GDS.

Therefore, by the end of the training period the FD should be able to:

1. demonstrate the clinical skills, knowledge and values relevant to the work of an NHS GDS Performer;
2. demonstrate the necessary knowledge and skills for the organisation governance and management of successful practice;
3. manage the psychological aspects of patient care;
4. work successfully as a member of the practice team;
5. make competent and confident professional decisions with an awareness of personal strengths and weaknesses, including the need to refer when appropriate;
6. demonstrate that he/she is working within the relevant guidelines regarding ethics and confidentiality of general dental practice;
7. implement regulations and guidelines for the delivery of safe practice;
8. know how to draw on the wide range of advice and support available to general dental practitioners and health care workers;
9. demonstrate that he/she understands that continuing professional development should be a lifelong commitment.