

NEW VERSION VT CORE CURRICULUM APRIL 2017

Codes:

E Essential to include in the programme

I Important for the VT to experience

The 4 domains are the cornerstone of the VT year and underpin the assessment process and Satisfactory Completion. Up to 37 essential sessions plus 17 important = 54 sessions to work from.

Domain: Communication

NB: Many of the skills in the study day side of this section will be integrated into most study days as the programme is rolled out.

E = 4 sessions

I = 1 session

TOPIC	STUDY DAY		PART OF STUDY DAY PROGRAMME	IN PRACTICE TRAINING		NOTES	DVT Competency Framework Area
	E / I	No of Sessions		Yes	Tutorial		
Case presentations / Presentation skills	E	2	Includes communication in small groups, verbal and non verbal. Case discussions				22.8 22.9
Communicating with peers and other professionals / giving and receiving feedback/Communicating in a professional manner	E	2	May be part of induction and include introduction to IT and the Portal. All students now are very IT literate	x	x	Assessment, e portfolio, appraisals. Ongoing monitoring of professionalism.	2.8 – 2.9 13.1 – 13.7 14.1 – 14.5 18.3 – 18.5 22.1 22.4

Communicating with patients	I	1	Consider using role play	x	x	Communication with patients integral to many other study days and everyday practice	1.14 1.20 2.1 – 2.2 2.4 – 2.7 2.11 – 2.12 3.1 3.3 12.1 – 12.11 15.6 16.1 – 16.2 16.4 – 16.5 16.8 – 16.11 18.2 22.3
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Domain: Clinical

E = 23 sessions

I = 8 sessions

TOPIC	STUDY DAY		PART OF STUDY DAY PROGRAMME	IN PRACTICE TRAINING		NOTES	DVT Competency Framework Area
	E / I	No of Sessions	Notes	Yes	Tutorial		
Management of the developing dentition	I	1	Examination, IOTN, referral	x	x	Ortho exams and IOTN re ortho referrals to secondary care. Ortho treatment where possible	1.4 – 1.5 9.1 – 9.7
Cross infection control in general dental practice	I	1		x	x	At practice induction and tutorial within their own practice setting	19.5 20.1 22.2
Oral surgery	E + I	1 + 1	Preferably hands on	x	x	Cover in practice including pain control	1.22 7.1 – 7.5
Treatment planning	E	2	2 sessions at different points in the year. Non NHS treatment options	x	x	Inc NHS fees and regs.PA. Cases from TRB.	1.8 – 1.9 1.12 1.13 2.3 2.6 2.10 7.6 10.2 11.6 16.3

MME	E	2	ILS training. Inc. defib training.	x		Routine induction and yearly CPR in the practice	4.11 – 4.12 4.14 – 4.16 4.18
Endodontics	E	2		x	x	Different file types used in practice	10.6 10.11
Perio in practice	E	1	Diagnosis, recording, treatment plan, ref to secondary care	x	x	Diagnosis, treatment planning and integration of care in practice. Appropriate referral to 2° care	1.18 3.2 6.1 – 6.5 6.6 – 6.8 6.10 – 6.12
Management of pain / dental emergencies	E	1	Suitable for PBL. Cover on call too	x	x	Cover this early in general practice. Emergency OOH cover	4.13
Clinical photography	E	1	Case presentations, medico legal/referral uses			Optional within practice	1.23
Protection of Vulnerable Groups	E	1	All vulnerable patients	x	x	Practice policy and regional HB protocols	1.17 3.1 3.3
Managing the medically compromised	E	1	Medically compromised patients, Yellow Card scheme, SDCEP guidance	x	x	Drug prescribing, SDCEP, BNF. To be included as part of practice induction	3.10 4.17 6.5 8.5 – 8.7
Radiology and radiation protection	E+I	1+1 core	Taking and interpreting radiographs. Legal responsibilities and core for CPD	x	x	Legal responsibilities	1.10 – 1.11 1.23 20.2

Quality Improvement and Clinical Governance	E	1	Audit, Safe practice. Patient safety. Patient Management	x	x	Improving efficiency and maintaining quality of work. Carrying out audit	17.10 – 17.11 19.10 19.11 19.13 22.2 22.5
Selfcare, posture/Coping with stress	I	1					17.10 - 11
Hints and tips	I	1	Covered in other areas	x		Very much in practice	
Oral Medicine/referral of suspicious lesions	I	1	Patient assessment and referral pathways	x			1.16 1.19 8.1 – 8.4
Geriodontics	E	1	Special care inc. prosthodontics/Management of the elderly dentition	x	x		2.2 7.3 12.10 16.3
Trauma	E + I	1 + 1	Include treatment of trauma/practical session	x	x	Patient management. SDR/ GDS regs. Childsmile	10.7
Removable prosthetics	E	1	Must include F/F	x	x		11.1 – 11.5
Teamworking / 4 handed	I	1		x			13.1 13.4 17.7 18.5 22.1

Restorative	E	4 + 2 discretionary	Tailor to the needs of the group. Cavity preps, crowns, fixed pros, materials, occlusion	x	x	Include SDR/GDS fees and Private options	3.2 7.6 10.3 10.5 10.8 10.9 10.10 10.12
Prevention, Oral Health Assessment and patient management	E	1	Treatment needs of the elderly, prevention in children, childsmile				1.2 – 1.3 1.6 – 1.7 1.22 – 1.23 3.4 – 3.9 10.1 10.4

Domain: Professional

E = 3 sessions

I = 2.5 sessions

TOPIC	STUDY DAY		PART OF STUDY DAY PROGRAMME Notes	IN PRACTICE TRAINING		NOTES	DVT Competency Framework Area
	E / I	No of Sessions		Yes	Tutorial		
Ethos of lifelong learning. Reflection on performance. Identifying learning needs. PDP/Clinical governance.	I	0.5	Part of the induction programme and then reinforced during study day programme	x	x	Developing self awareness; identifying limits of competence, identifying learning needs, Keeping eportfolio up to date	17.2 – 17.6 22.3 22.6 – 22.7
Careers in dentistry	E	1	Developing realistic expectations, GDS/SDS/HDS	x	x	Reinforcing realistic aspirations, Career pathways, Mentoring	17.1 19.3
Medico – legal & standards. Risk management.	E + I	1 + 1	Principles of: confidentiality, informed consent for NHS & private treatment, adults with incapacity, handling complaints, Record keeping and Patient Safety	x	x	Handling complaints, Record keeping, Contracts for dentists & staff, Plus data protection, FOI requests, secure data storage	1.1 1.15 15.1 – 15.3 15.5 15.8 16.6 17.7 18.1 19.12 19.14 20.4 – 20.5 20.7 – 20.8 20.10 – 20.12

Practice management			Staff and dentists contracts, Wages/PAYE	x	x		17.9 19.1 – 19.9 19.15
Audit and SEA	E + I	1 + 1		x	x		16.7 17.8

Domain: Managerial

E = 2.5 sessions

I = 2.5 sessions

TOPIC	STUDY DAY		PART OF STUDY DAY PROGRAMME Notes	IN PRACTICE TRAINING		NOTES	DVT Competency Framework Area
	E / I	No of Sessions		Yes	Tutorial		
Rules & Regs inc DRO and PSD	E+I	1+1	May include CFS	x	x	Both NHS and GDC. Prior approval, treatment fees, Private options	2.6 15.7 19.1 20.5 20.9
Finance for VDPs. Associate posts. Schedules.	I	1	Personal finance, taxation, pensions, debt management	x	x	NHS & private payment systems, Analyzing schedules & practice profiles, practice costs, associate remuneration	21.1 – 21.6
Test of Knowledge and E+D	E	0.5	If possible, move E&D to pre VT				15.4 17.1 19.6 20.3
Health and safety	E	1	Includes cross infection control. Potentially move to online delivery, and require before commencement of post	x	x	Practice management systems, preparing for a practice inspection, policies, risk assessment	20.6
Equipment maintenance	I	0.5	Trainer led session in study day	x	x	Practical within the practice	19.2

Additional Study Days

E = 0 sessions

I = 4 sessions

TOPIC	STUDY DAY		PART OF STUDY DAY PROGRAMME	IN PRACTICE TRAINING		NOTES	DVT Competency Framework Area
	E / I	No of Sessions	Notes	Yes	Tutorial		
Attendance at conferences / national meetings	I	4	At least one day and 2 sessions should cover VT core topics			Should this include top 10 tips?	

Section II: DVT Competency Framework

The DVT competency framework is organised into four 'Domains' of competency, each of which contain a number of 'Major Competency' areas within which the individual competency statements are described. An overview of the Domains and Major Competencies within the DVT Competency Framework is shown below.

DVT Competency Framework Overview

DOMAIN	MAJOR COMPETENCIES
Clinical	1. Patient examination & diagnosis
	2. Treatment planning & patient management
	3. Health promotion & disease prevention
	4. Medical & dental emergencies
	5. Anaesthesia, sedation, pain & anxiety control
	6. Periodontal therapy & management
	7. Hard & soft tissue surgery
	8. Non-surgical management of the hard & soft tissues of the head & neck
	9. Management of the developing dentition
	10. Restoration of teeth
	11. Replacement of teeth
Communication	12. Patients, carers & the public
	13. Clinical team & peers
	14. Other professionals
Professionalism	15. Ethics
	16. Patients, carers & the public
	17. Self
	18. Clinical team & peers
Management & Leadership	19. Personal & practice organisation & management
	20. Legislation & regulation
	21. Financial management
	22. Clinical leadership

CLINICAL DOMAIN

1. PATIENT EXAMINATION & DIAGNOSIS

The VDP can demonstrate to an appropriate standard the ability to:

1. Obtain, interpret and record an accurate history that incorporates appropriate dental, medical (including medication history and allergies), social, demographical, cultural, nutritional, psychological and genetic factors.
2. Perform a comprehensive oral health assessment (or urgent care assessment) of the patient, and identify the symptoms, principal complaint, and any relevant history.
3. Perform a comprehensive extra-oral and intra-oral examination that is suitable for the clothed patient, and record the findings accurately through communication with a supporting healthcare professional.
4. Assess skeletal, dental and occlusal relationships in the primary, mixed and permanent dentition accurately, and identify conditions which may require treatment or referral onwards.
5. Assess hard and soft tissue developmental abnormalities and diagnose conditions which may require investigation, treatment or onward referral.
6. Assess the patients' standard of oral hygiene accurately and use relevant information such as dental attendance pattern, ability, motivation and commitment to promote its improvement.
7. Distinguish between mucosal, gingival and periodontal health and disease, and identify conditions which may require investigation, treatment or onward referral.
8. Identify the location, extent and activity of tooth surface loss and caries, and plan for appropriate management at all levels of complexity appropriate to their own competence and resources available.
9. Distinguish between pulpal health and disease, and identify conditions which may require treatment or onward referral.
10. Prescribe an appropriate and risk assessed radiographic imaging examination that meets the diagnostic needs of the patient in line with current national guidance.
11. Perform an accurate radiographic examination and expose, process, assess, report and store the radiograph correctly in line with current national guidance.
12. Generate a differential diagnosis and treatment / management plan based on evidence from an oral health assessment / urgent care assessment and risk screening, through the correct interpretation of clinical findings.
13. Assess the influence of systemic diseases and other disabilities (and associated treatment) on oral health and the delivery of dental treatment.
14. Evaluate and manage patients' treatment expectations, identify the degree to which they can be met, and discuss the different options.
15. Keep clinical records (conventional and / or electronic) in line with current national guidance.
16. Perform an accurate assessment of the patient to enable the early diagnosis of oral potentially malignant diseases and / or orofacial neoplastic change, and be knowledgeable about referral protocols (including local arrangements) taking into account the degree of urgency.

1. PATIENT EXAMINATION & DIAGNOSIS

The VDP can describe in appropriate detail:

17. The signs of abuse or neglect in vulnerable groups, and the local procedures that should be followed when reporting such circumstances.
18. The signs and symptoms of periodontal diseases, and identify conditions which may require treatment or onward referral.

19. The clinical features associated with oral mucosal diseases, and identify conditions which may require treatment or onward referral (including urgent referrals for suspected head and neck cancer).
20. The spectrum of patient behaviour which may contribute to orofacial problems, or their ability to cooperate with care or treatment plans, and identify conditions which require prevention or management.
21. The risk assessment required prior to referral for sedation or general anaesthesia.
22. Knowledge and understanding of the principles of (and where appropriate, perform) a basic clinical examination, including blood pressure, pulse, respiration and temperature.
23. Knowledge of (and where appropriate, perform) diagnostic procedures, including biopsy.

CLINICAL DOMAIN

2. TREATMENT PLANNING & PATIENT MANAGEMENT

The VDP can demonstrate to an appropriate standard the ability to:

1. Present to the patient (and check their understanding of) the findings resulting from the history and examination, including clinical and radiographic results, differential diagnoses, treatment options, prognoses, sequenced treatment plan and individualised recall intervals based on risk assessment in a manner that they can understand.
2. Develop and discuss with the patient (or carer) in a manner they can understand, a comprehensive and accurate written care or treatment plan where options are based on the individual needs of the patient.
3. Formulate individualised, written care or treatment plans for patients according to their individual circumstances, medical history, needs and selected treatment options.
4. Discuss with the patient or carer (in a manner they can understand) their responsibilities associated with the treatment plan, including preventive education, time requirements for treatment, fees and payment methods.
5. Obtain valid informed consent from the patient / parent / guardian before starting treatment, explaining all relevant options and costs in a manner they can understand, and ensure the patients' consent remains valid at all stages of the treatment.

2. TREATMENT PLANNING & PATIENT MANAGEMENT

The VDP:

6. Knows which items of treatment fall within NHS primary dental care regulations* and any which do not, and can discuss the consequences of this with the patient in a manner he or she can understand. **relevant to the country of training (and that these may differ)*
7. Is able to manage effectively and professionally any situations where the patients' wishes and the recommendations of the dentist differ, and properly document the conversation and outcome.
8. Communicates with other professionals when appropriate in order to obtain additional information and / or treatment for the patient. The VDP can demonstrate the ability to refer patients for specialised treatment or advice in a manner that causes the least anxiety for the patient.
9. Demonstrates appropriate management of the patient following discharge from specialised care.
10. Monitors therapeutic outcomes and ensures that appropriate follow-up care is arranged. Recognises changes in the clinical picture and reviews diagnoses and management plans regularly.
11. Encourages patients to ask questions about their treatment options or treatment plan.
12. Is able to present to the patient a complete range of treatment options, explaining risks, benefits and costs for each.

CLINICAL DOMAIN

3. HEALTH PROMOTION & DISEASE PREVENTION

The VDP can demonstrate to an appropriate standard the ability to:

1. Recognise opportunities for and provide patients / parents / carers with comprehensive, accurate and current preventive education and instruction in self-care methods tailored to the individual needs of the patient.
2. Perform preventive and restorative treatment procedures that will conserve the tooth structure, prevent hard and soft tissue disease and promote hard and soft tissue health.
3. Identify habits that are detrimental to oral health and provide patients with an effective strategy for their control.

3. HEALTH PROMOTION & DISEASE PREVENTION

The VDP can demonstrate:

4. Knowledge of the relationship between socioeconomic factors and inequalities in populations, and risk factors for dental disease, and general and oral health.
5. Knowledge and understanding of prevention of dental disease in practice populations and the wider community, including preventive programmes and water fluoridation.
6. Knowledge, understanding and the application of techniques to support behaviour change and improvements in general and oral health, in the context of the role of general dental practice.

3. HEALTH PROMOTION & DISEASE PREVENTION

The VDP can:

7. Provide preventive education for patients and carers in a manner they can understand, and which encourages self-care and motivation, and check their understanding of their individual care plan.
8. Describe in appropriate detail the health risks of substances detrimental to oral and general health, and provide the patient with appropriate advice to adopt a healthy lifestyle, recording both the advice provided and risks in the clinical notes.
9. Provide health promotion advice within the contexts of diverse social and educational norms.
10. Demonstrate an understanding of safe, effective and legal prescribing and monitoring, including appropriate use of the British National Formulary and other national guidance, and antimicrobial stewardship.

CLINICAL DOMAIN

4. MEDICAL AND DENTAL EMERGENCIES

The VDP can demonstrate to an appropriate standard the ability to:

1. Perform an urgent care assessment of the patient when required. Identify medical and dental emergencies which are beyond his or her scope of management, (including oral infections and sepsis), and refer with an appropriate degree of urgency.
2. Recognise, manage, (and where required, provide) basic and immediate life support for medical emergencies, in line with guidelines from the UK Resuscitation Council.
3. Diagnose and effectively manage common dental emergencies (and pain), including those resulting from treatment complications or failures, infection, allergic response or trauma (including avulsed teeth).
4. Identify, prescribe and administer (where appropriate) pharmacological agents correctly for the management of medical emergencies.
5. Manage and facilitate a team approach to medical emergencies in the primary care dental setting.
6. Apply local protocols to minimise risk and deal with medical emergencies in the primary dental care setting

4. MEDICAL AND DENTAL EMERGENCIES

The VDP can demonstrate:

7. Knowledge of potential drug interactions and side-effects (including prevention thereof), and manage situations appropriately when they occur.
8. Knowledge of the requirements and procedures involved in selection and maintenance of an emergency drug supply.

CLINICAL DOMAIN

5. ANAESTHESIA, SEDATION, PAIN CONTROL & ANXIETY CONTROL

The VDP can demonstrate to an appropriate standard the ability to:

1. local analgesia techniques for clinical dentistry as appropriate to ensure adequate pain control for patients.
2. Select and prescribe appropriate medication for the relief of pain and anxiety in a safe and effective manner with appropriate risk assessment.
3. Use suitable behavioural, psychological and interpersonal techniques for the relief of fear and anxiety.

5. ANAESTHESIA, SEDATION, PAIN CONTROL & ANXIETY CONTROL

The VDP can describe in appropriate detail:

4. The limitations, risks and benefits of using general anaesthesia and sedation, and explain the options and choices to patients including appropriate referral where necessary.

CLINICAL DOMAIN

6. PERIODONTAL THERAPY & MANAGEMENT

The VDP can demonstrate to an appropriate standard the ability to:

1. Evaluate the periodontal tissues and provide a differential diagnosis of the patient's periodontal condition.
2. Measure and record periodontal indices accurately, according to current national guidelines.
3. Integrate periodontal findings into the patient's comprehensive treatment plan and understand how the periodontal status of the patient will impact upon his/her treatment plan.
4. Communicate, motivate and support behavioural change in patients in order to achieve effective self-management of the periodontal condition.
5. Establish a prognosis for periodontally involved teeth and inform the patient of this.
6. Prescribe, deliver and monitor the use of local and systemic antimicrobial agents where appropriate, to aid the treatment of periodontal diseases.
7. Assess the requirement for and provide oral hygiene advice, scaling and mechanical root debridement.
8. Evaluate the results of periodontal treatment, and establish and monitor a suitable recall maintenance programme for patients.
9. Assess the requirement for specialised advice and refer the patient appropriately.

6. PERIODONTAL THERAPY & MANAGEMENT

The VDP:

10. Can demonstrate understanding of the aetiology of periodontal disease, and is able to explain this to patients.
11. Can describe the role of dental care professionals (DCP) in periodontal therapy and is able to work with DCPs in the management of the patients condition, and prescribe treatment where appropriate.
12. Can describe the conservative management of gingival recession.

CLINICAL DOMAIN

7. HARD & SOFT TISSUE SURGERY

The VDP can demonstrate to an appropriate standard the:

1. Extraction of primary and permanent erupted teeth, including erupted uncomplicated third molars, and the appropriate diagnosis and management of any common complications, e.g. haemorrhage.
2. Effective management, including extraction where appropriate, of buried roots (whether fractured during extraction or retained root fragments), unerupted, impacted, ectopic and supernumary teeth.
3. Effective management of patients with relevant medical conditions including bleeding disorders, and medications e.g. all oral anti-coagulants and bisphosphonates.
4. Ability to carry out an accurate pre- and post-operative assessment of the patient, and give appropriate advice on self-management.
5. Referral of patients requiring complex treatment, sedation or general anaesthesia, or surgical treatment of hard and soft tissue lesions.

7. HARD & SOFT TISSUE SURGERY

The VDP:

6. Provides preventive and supportive care for patients with implants, and can describe the basic principles and techniques involved in the surgical placement of dental implants.

CLINICAL DOMAIN

8. NON SURGICAL MANAGEMENT OF THE HARD & SOFT TISSUES OF THE HEAD AND NECK

The VDP can demonstrate to an appropriate standard the:

1. Diagnose and treat localised odontogenic infections; diagnose, treat and refer post-operative surgical complications; and diagnose and refer major odontogenic infections with the appropriate degree of urgency.
2. Understand and assist in the investigation, diagnosis and effective management of oral mucosal diseases, including the early referral of patients with possible pre-malignant or malignant lesions.
3. Describe the pathology and clinical significance of neoplastic and non-neoplastic disease of the head and neck.
4. Describe disorders in patients with craniofacial pain including the initial management of temporomandibular disorders, and refer more complex cases that require specialised management.
5. Assess the need for, prescribe and where appropriate administer pharmacotherapeutic agents in the safe treatment of all dental patients.
6. Optimise prescribing of antimicrobials through up to date knowledge and understanding of antimicrobial resistance and guidance of antibiotic usage.
7. Practise pharmaco-vigilance during the care of patients, and report adverse drug interactions, effects and errors appropriately.

CLINICAL DOMAIN

9. MANAGEMENT OF THE DEVELOPING DENTITION

The VDP can demonstrate to an appropriate standard the:

1. Diagnose, assess and treat malocclusions and refer those that require specialised advice and/or management.
2. Assess occlusion and diagnose malocclusion or disturbances of the developing dentition for the purpose of carrying out interceptive treatment or onward referral at the appropriate developmental stage.
3. Recognise detrimental oral habits and occlusal trauma and where appropriate manage or refer.
4. Recognise and manage problems related to orthodontic treatment, relieve trauma and discomfort related to orthodontic appliances and arrange emergency repairs when required.
5. Use orthodontic indices.

9. MANAGEMENT OF THE DEVELOPING DENTITION

The VDP can demonstrate appropriate knowledge and understanding of:

6. How to formulate a treatment plan and implement a plan to provide space maintenance when required.
7. Facial growth and dental development (and the ability to monitor these), recognise abnormalities as they appear, and refer appropriately.

CLINICAL DOMAIN

10. RESTORATION OF TEETH

The VDP can demonstrate to an appropriate standard the ability to:

1. Assess patients to evaluate their risk factors for caries, and formulate and implement a suitable preventive strategy.
2. Evaluate the restorative prognosis for individual teeth and relate this to the overall treatment plan and patient's aims and expectations.
3. Remove carious tooth structure in preparation for restoration, using techniques which minimise unnecessary tooth damage and pulpal injury.
4. Prescribe and monitor the use of chemotherapeutic agents in order to assist in the prevention and management of dental caries.
5. Restore carious teeth to form, function and appearance using a wide range of restorative materials.
6. Perform non-surgical root canal treatment and re-treatment on single and multirooted teeth with mild curvature of the canal, and understand when referral is appropriate.
7. Recognise and manage dental trauma in the emergency situation, including the re-implantation of avulsed teeth, and then arrange follow-up & subsequent management.
8. Restore teeth to maintain predictability of the existing occlusion to form, function and appearance using indirect restorations, and refer as appropriate.
9. Use a range of materials and techniques in the application of appropriate indirect restorations, with appropriate consideration of occlusal articulators.
10. Can demonstrate modern restorative concepts around minimally invasive techniques.

10. RESTORATION OF TEETH

The VDP:

11. Can isolate the tooth from saliva and is competent in the use of the rubber dam.
12. Can demonstrate modern restorative concepts around minimally invasive techniques.

CLINICAL DOMAIN

11. REPLACEMENT OF TEETH

The VDP can demonstrate to an appropriate standard the ability to:

1. Obtain and interpret diagnostic casts, take radiographs and gather other relevant data in formulating a diagnosis, prognosis and treatment plan for patients requiring prosthodontic treatment.
2. Evaluate, select and prepare teeth, and evaluate residual ridges, to support and retain fixed and removable prostheses.
3. Provide biomechanically sound fixed or removable prostheses.
4. Diagnose, plan, design, deliver and maintain removable partial and complete dentures.
5. Prescribe to, and communicate with, the dental laboratory accurately, and ensure the completed work is fit for purpose.

11. REPLACEMENT OF TEETH

The VDP can demonstrate to an appropriate standard the ability to:

6. Knowledge of current national guidelines relating to the provision of dental implants and local arrangements for NHS provision.

COMMUNICATION DOMAIN

12. COMMUNICATION WITH PATIENTS, CARERS & THE PUBLIC

The VDP can demonstrate to an appropriate standard the ability to:

1. Increase patients' awareness and understanding of treatment options and procedures by careful explanation and the use of effective communication skills.
2. Inspire confidence in patients (from all age groups and situations) and build rapport through the use of effective interpersonal and communication skills.
3. Present questions and information to the patient (or carer) in a clear, concise and understandable manner.
4. Refer patients from different age groups or situations for care or treatment, giving clear information about choices, in a sensitive manner that causes the least anxiety possible.
5. Communicate effectively with patients, relatives and carers in a manner which respects the patient's privacy, dignity, confidentiality and self-image.
6. Select and compose suitable written communications (electronic and paper-based) which are appropriate for the patient and/or carer in different clinical scenarios.
7. Address challenging communication situations including the effective management of anxiety, anger, confusion or misunderstanding of patients, and offer support to patients where they may need help in making decisions.

12. COMMUNICATION WITH PATIENTS, CARERS & THE PUBLIC

The VDP can demonstrate to an appropriate standard the:

8. Effective management of all patients through the use of suitable interpersonal and behavioural skills, including those with anxiety or other special needs.

12. COMMUNICATION WITH PATIENTS, CARERS & THE PUBLIC

The VDP:

9. Provides appropriate, relevant and up to date preventive education to individual patients in a manner that inspires motivation for change.
10. Can identify patients (or carers) with special communication needs and is able to make arrangements to meet these requirements effectively, e.g. use of interpreter, sign language, induction loop etc.
11. Listens effectively and is responsive to non-verbal cues.

COMMUNICATION DOMAIN

13. COMMUNICATION WITH THE CLINICAL TEAM & PEERS

The VDP can demonstrate to an appropriate standard the ability to:

1. Work effectively with colleagues as part of a team, in accordance with current GDC standards.
2. Interact effectively with members of the clinical team and peers, understanding the scope of practice of DCPs and the value they bring to patient care.
3. Prescribe (verbally and in writing) to the dental healthcare team, and deal with problems arising in connection with work delegated / prescribed to and performed by other professionals.

13. COMMUNICATION WITH THE CLINICAL TEAM & PEERS

The VDP:

4. Provides treatment for patients from all age groups and situations in an organised and efficient manner through appropriate interaction with other members of the clinical team.
5. Communicates with all members of the clinical team and peers in an appropriate manner, which inspires confidence, motivation and teamwork.
6. Is able to interact with all members of the clinical team and peers with due regard to practice policies, rules and regulations, health and safety procedures and appropriate clinical techniques.
7. Recognises the need for and can organise, contribute to and facilitate team events.

COMMUNICATION DOMAIN

14. COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER PROFESSIONALS

The VDP can demonstrate to an appropriate standard the ability to:

1. Communicate effectively with other professionals (individually and in groups) both verbally and in writing.
2. Present professional knowledge effectively to a wide range of lay and professional individuals.
3. Communicate effectively (verbally and in writing) with referral bodies, and seek advice when necessary.
4. Discuss professional matters in an appropriate manner.
5. Is able to explain the advantages of association with professional bodies and peer groups.

PROFESSIONALISM DOMAIN

15. ETHICS

The VDP can demonstrate to an appropriate standard:

1. Knowledge of the application of the principles of current GDC publications on standards for dental professionals, that provide guidance to dentists on professional and personal conduct, and can describe the implications of failing to adhere to GDC Standards and legislation.
2. Knowledge of the application of the principles of ethical behaviour relevant to dentistry, including honesty, confidentiality, personal and professional integrity and appropriate moral values.
3. A professional approach to patients' complaints in accordance with current GDC and NHS standards, and accepts responsibility for his/her actions where appropriate.

15. ETHICS

The VDP:

4. Respects and values equality and diversity and interacts with patients, carers, staff, peers and the general public without discrimination.
5. Is able to explain in appropriate detail the actions available to be taken (including raising concerns and whistleblowing), with regard to those colleagues who may be underperforming, behaving unethically, or posing a risk to patient safety, and / or incidents of patient harm.
6. Can demonstrate appropriate interpersonal skills in dealing with patients or colleagues exhibiting challenging or inappropriate behaviour.
7. Adheres to appropriate guidelines, and has knowledge of relevant standards and recommendations.
8. Understands their responsibility with regard to maintaining confidentiality in accordance with current GDC standards and legislation.

PROFESSIONALISM DOMAIN

16. PROFESSIONALISM WITH PATIENTS, CARERS & THE PUBLIC

The VDP:

1. Provides high quality, compassionate care for all patients, and always puts patients' safety first.
2. Demonstrates effective and ethical decision making.
3. Provides treatment for all patients with courtesy and respect, provides treatment options that are sensitive to the needs of the patient, and recognises the patients' right to choose.
4. Maintains honesty and confidentiality with all patients.
5. Interacts with patients and carers without discrimination.
6. Maintains the confidentiality and security of patient information, with respect to contemporary legislation and current GDC standards.
7. Regularly reviews and reflects on the outcomes of treatment provided in an effort to assure the highest standards of patient care, and can describe the importance of clinical audit and its regular implementation.
8. Provides relevant and appropriate preventive education for each patient or carer in a manner that he/she can understand.
9. Ensures patients (& carers) are provided with comprehensive information about options, choices and costs for treatment, both in practice literature and websites.
10. Always puts patients' interests before their own, or those of any colleague, business or organisation.
11. Does not express personal, political, religious or moral beliefs when working in relation to patient care.

PROFESSIONALISM DOMAIN

17. PROFESSIONALISM (SELF)

The VDP can demonstrate to an appropriate standard:

1. A thorough understanding of the professional roles and responsibilities of dentists and DCPs within and outside the NHS, including permitted scope of practice, and rules regarding patients' direct access to treatment provided by DCPs in accordance with current GDC standards.
2. A commitment to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) through the regular completion (and subsequent recording) of CPD activities which update and improve knowledge and skills, and the incorporation of these skills into everyday practice.
3. The ability (and commitment) to self-assess and reflect upon his/her own professional knowledge, skills, capabilities and limitations in order to provide the highest standards of patient care, demonstrating insight into his/her own strengths, weaknesses and development needs, and only accepts delegated / referred tasks if he / she has the capacity and is competent to do so.
4. The ability to critically evaluate new techniques and technologies.
5. The ability to critically evaluate published research and integrate this information to improve the quality of care for the patient.
6. The ability to recognise, integrate and reflect on learning opportunities within the workplace.
7. Knowledge of the requirements to have appropriate support from a trained member of the dental team when treating patients.
8. Knowledge and understanding of the principles involved in clinical audit and peer review, and participates in such activities.
9. Knowledge and understanding of the value of appraisal, and engages in this process.

17. PROFESSIONALISM (SELF)

The VDP:

10. Understands the importance of not practising whilst impaired by alcohol, other drugs, medication, legal or illegal substances, illness or injury and can describe the dangers associated with these situations, and knows how to seek help for self and others.
11. Protects patients and colleagues from risks posed by suboptimal health, conduct or performance, and does not rely solely upon their own assessment of such risks.

PROFESSIONALISM DOMAIN

18. PROFESSIONALISM WITH CLINICAL TEAM & PEERS

The VDP:

1. Is able to explain in appropriate detail the actions available to be taken with regard to perceived incompetence, impairment or unethical behaviour from colleagues.
2. Interacts with patients, colleagues, team members and peers without discrimination.
3. Is respectful and co-operative with colleagues, staff and peers, and can demonstrate a commitment to the maintenance of high levels of professionalism, training and safety for staff.
4. Understands the scope of practice of DCP groups and how to utilise their skills effectively (including referral and prescribing) to enhance patient care.
5. Understands the dynamics of multi-professional working and how these can contribute to the delivery of quality patient care.

MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP DOMAIN

19. PERSONAL AND PRACTICE ORGANISATION & MANAGEMENT

The VDP can demonstrate to an appropriate standard:

1. The efficient management of time and resources on a daily basis.
2. An understanding of the day to day running of a general practice, and any other areas of clinical practice relevant to their training, and where to find managerial assistance where necessary.
3. An understanding of different professional working and contractual agreements, and dental career pathways.
4. The full, accurate and secure maintenance of patients' information and records, in accordance with current GDC standards.
5. An understanding of the considerations to be made during the selection, care and maintenance of equipment for dental practice, including the appropriate procedures to be implemented with regard to the safety of reusable devices.
6. An understanding of the principles of staff recruitment and employment legislation, including interview techniques, job descriptions, contracts, equal opportunities, grievance and disciplinary matters.
7. An understanding of the requirements for and processes involved in risk assessment within the workplace and resultant action.
8. The prioritisation of professional duties effectively and appropriately when faced with multiple tasks and responsibilities.
9. The effective use and understanding of relevant IT systems in practice, including those used for risk screening.
10. The reporting and analysis of incidents and near misses, and the development of strategies (e.g. significant event analysis) to reduce or eliminate the risk of reoccurrence.
11. The use of research data and evidence-based knowledge in his/her approach to clinical practice.

19. PERSONAL AND PRACTICE ORGANISATION & MANAGEMENT

The VDP can describe in appropriate detail:

12. Dental care pathways and current contractual models.
13. The procedures for local and national, serious and critical incident reporting systems.
14. The considerations required to ensure that material used for advertising, promotion or information (including the use of social media) is accurate, and complies with the GDC's current guidance on ethical advertising.

19. PERSONAL AND PRACTICE ORGANISATION & MANAGEMENT

The VDP can describe in appropriate detail:

15. Ensures patients have the details they need to be able to contact the dentist / practice, and have clear information regarding arrangements for emergency care (including out of hours treatment).

MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP DOMAIN

20. LEGISLATION & REGULATION

The VDP:

1. Takes appropriate responsibility for health and safety issues, including those relating to patients, oneself and practice staff. The VDP has up to date knowledge and understanding of infection control procedures and is competent in the implementation of these in daily practice.
2. Can assess the quality and describe in appropriate detail the safety issues in relation to dental radiography with regard to current guidelines and regulations.
3. Has up to date knowledge and understanding of discrimination and equality legislation, and how this applies in a practice setting.
4. Can describe in appropriate detail the principles of obtaining valid consent for patients of all ages and capacities.
5. Can demonstrate appropriate knowledge and understanding of regulation and legislation that impacts on dentistry and dental practices.

20. LEGISLATION & REGULATION

The VDP can demonstrate to an appropriate standard, understanding of:

6. The legal issues and practical implications relating to health and safety and infection control, and where to get additional information if necessary.
7. The legal and ethical obligations of a dental practitioner and other members of the dental team, and the definition of fitness to practise according to the GDC.
8. Information Governance, Data Protection and Freedom of Information legislation, and the implications of non-compliance.
9. The structure, principles, rules and regulations associated with working as a dentist within the NHS.
10. Avoidance and management of complaints in accordance with current GDC standards, and how/when to seek the advice of a professional indemnity organisation.
11. The requirement for membership of a professional indemnity organisation in accordance with current GDC standards.
12. Legislation and regulations in relation to the provision / manufacture of custom made appliances.

MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP DOMAIN

21. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The VDP can demonstrate to an appropriate standard, understanding of:

1. The charging structure relating to treatment provided for patients in general practice and other relevant clinical environments, including NHS dentistry, private fee per item and capitation schemes.
2. The financial management of a general dental practice and other relevant clinical environments.
3. The application of different remuneration systems for dental services.
4. UK Taxation, as it relates to employed and self-employed dentists.
5. The NHS Superannuation Pension scheme and UK requirements.
6. Contracts and agreements, as they relate to salaried and self-employed (associate dentists).

MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP DOMAINS

22. CLINICAL LEADERSHIP

The VDP:

1. Demonstrates effective leadership within the healthcare team, where appropriate, including the support of all team members.
2. Takes account of quality assurance, quality improvement and patient safety, and develops, implements and evaluates strategies to improve quality.
3. Understands the principles of adult learning, and facilitates the learning of patients, families, carers, colleagues and the public as appropriate.
4. Understands the value of mentoring and being a positive role model for other members of the healthcare team.
5. Understands how to act in the interests of patients who have been subjected to clinical harm or errors, to obtain appropriate advice and support.
6. Select, implement and evaluate strategies to facilitate effective learning.
7. Accept and provide effective feedback in a manner that motivates and encourages learning.
8. Present effectively to colleagues ensuring understanding and meeting the expectations of the audience.
9. Demonstrate clinical skills and competencies to other colleagues in an effective manner.

Reference Documents and Links

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