

### Horizons Your portfolio update



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### **New qualifications**

Qualification	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in the Principles and Practice of Dental Nursing (610/3114/8)
Go-live date	30 September 2024
Go-live date Useful information	We are delighted to announce the launch of the new NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in the Principles and Practice of Dental Nursing (610/3114/8) qualification. This is the first dental nursing qualification offered by an awarding organisation that meets the General Dental Council's (GDC's) new The Safe Practitioner Framework (SPF): Dental Nurse that will supersede the current Preparing for practice learning outcomes. The implementation date of the new GDC framework commences on 1 August 2025; however, to support our centres to implement the SPF as early as possible and to facilitate a smoother transition and ensure readiness for the mandatory changes effective from 1 August 2025 we have launched our new updated and current qualification.  This Ofqual regulated qualification for dental nurses is suitable for learners/apprentices aged 16 and above and focuses on direct chair-side work and support during a range of dental treatments. It is designed for those who want to register with the GDC and qualify as a dental nurse. It can be taken as either stand-alone or as part of an apprenticeship and is a mandatory element within the Dental Nurse (GDC 2023) occupational standard and the end-point assessment (EPA) is integrated into this qualification.
	To meet the GDC's outcomes, this qualification reflects the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours a dental nurse must have to practise safely, effectively and professionally. The qualification fully meets The Safe Practitioner: Dental Nurse and in addition also meets the knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSBs) within the Dental Nurse (GDC 2023) occupational standard. Units include underpinning ethics, professionalism, teamwork and communication, as well as practical dental principles and techniques.  The qualification is both internally assessed via a portfolio of evidence and externally assessed via two externally set and externally marked, synoptic, multiple-choice question (MCQ) tests covering the underpinning knowledge across units and assessed online and on demand. This allows centres the flexibility of choosing the date and time for submitting learners for their assessments. The qualification is graded pass, merit or distinction.  For apprentices, on achievement of this qualification and the completion of a successful Gateway audit, they may begin the EPA period. The EPA takes place after the apprentice has completed all the requirements on-programme, for the Level 3 Diploma in the



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	Principles and Practice of Dental Nursing, and their workplace agrees they are competent. The independent external quality assurers (IEQAs) will review claimed qualification certificates to ensure that apprentices have met all the requirements of the Dental Nurse apprenticeship. Please see the <a href="EPA support page">EPA support page</a> on the NCFE website for more information.  This qualification is currently provisionally approved by the GDC, and this is the penultimate stage of the GDC's rigorous approval process. Final approval will be confirmed following successful inspection by the GDC after the first cohort has completed their studies and assessment. Learners who have achieved this qualification would then be able to apply for registration as a dental nurse with the GDC.
	The qualification has been submitted for age 16 to 19 and advanced learner loans funding and we are currently awaiting the outcome.
	This qualification is not eligible for direct claims status (DCS) as it is a licence to practise qualification.
	To apply for approval for this qualification please visit the qualification page on the NCFE website.
Stakeholder involvement	We have worked with a number of sector subject specialists to ensure that this is a robust, current and fit-for-purpose qualification, which has been designed with qualification users and the GDC requirements at its heart.
Support materials	The following documents will shortly be available to support with the planning and delivery of this qualification and were developed to be used alongside the mandatory Qualification Specification. Please visit the qualification page on the NCFE website for further information and to access these documents once available:
	<ul> <li>Support Handbook (this contains additional supporting information to help with planning, delivery and assessment; the Qualification Specification contains all the qualification-specific information you will need that is not covered in the Support Handbook)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Internal Assessment Tasks (comprehensive set of optional assessment tasks covering all knowledge learning outcomes (LOs) and providing the underpinning knowledge linked to the skills LOs)</li> </ul>
	Assessment Specification (marking guidance for the Internal Assessment Tasks)
	Qualification Approval and External Quality Assurance Reviews (guidance on our external quality assurance and approval requirements)



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	<ul> <li>Appendices, Policies and Statements (comprehensive set of templates to support with delivery and assessment, these are not mandatory and established centres are likely to already have the appropriate processes in place and may wish to use their own)</li> <li>Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours (KSBs) Mapping document (this document outlines where the Level 3 Diploma in the Principles and Practice of Dental Nursing maps to the KSB statements within the occupational standard, showing which units, LOs and assessment criteria (AC) within the qualification content covers each KSB statement)</li> <li>Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs) (includes question papers and answer keys; these will support learners with preparation for the two external assessment, multiple-choice question (MCQ) tests that cover the underpinning knowledge across units)</li> </ul>
Guided learning	365
hours (GLH)	
Total qualification	550
time (TQT)	
Credit	55
Level	3
Qualification Fee	£215
Apprenticeship bundle fee	APP3777 Dental Nurse Apprenticeship Standard (ST1431) Qualification with Functional Skills English and mathematics – £225







### **New unit programmes**

Unit programme	Obtain and Test Capillary Blood Samples (L/650/1687/UNITCACHE)
Go-live date	24 September 2024
Useful information	This unit is suitable for learners aged 16 and above.
	This unit is aimed at workers involved in the collection of capillary blood samples using either manual or automated lancets, and testing of the sample where this is required. Caution must be applied with taking multiple samples from neonates or children under 1 year old, as venepuncture may be the preferred method depending on the type of sample and quantity required.
Guided learning	30
hours (GLH) Level	3
Fee	£15.50







### **Qualification updates**

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Summary of update	We were due to launch stand-alone unit programmes for the above qualifications on 01 October 2024; however, we wanted to let you know that this has been delayed and we will be in touch with an update once we have further information. In the meantime, if you do have a demand for stand-alone unit programmes from these qualifications, or any other related queries, please contact your account manager or email our Product Manager allisonchatten@ncfe.org.uk so we can log and respond to your requests.