

Specialist List in Special Care Dentistry

Definition of Special Care Dentistry

Special Care Dentistry (SCD) is concerned with providing and enabling the delivery of oral care for people with an impairment or disability, where the need for special care is defined within the framework of the World Health Organisation's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. Thus, Special Care Dentistry is concerned with: 'The improvement of oral health of individuals and groups in society who have a physical, sensory, intellectual, mental, medical, emotional or social impairment or disability or, more often, a combination of a number of these factors' (Joint Advisory Committee for Special Care Dentistry, 2003).

The focus for the Speciality is on adults requiring Special Care to meet their needs. It includes those people in the transition period from paediatric to adult services. This recognises the important role that Specialists in Paediatric Dentistry play in providing care for children in both hospital and community settings. The speciality will address the needs of patients who require specialist adult care and the importance of their transfer, seamlessly, to adult specialist services, in order to provide ongoing care throughout adolescence and adulthood. (A Case of Need. Proposal for a Speciality in Special Care Dentistry 2003).

What are Specialist Lists?

The General Dental Council (GDC) has powers to set up lists of registered dentists who meet certain conditions and have been given the right by the GDC to use a specialist title. The two dental specialities Oral Surgery and Orthodontics - are the only two to be recognised under European law but a derogation for the GDC allows it to recognise any speciality, where this would be justified in the interests of the public and the dental profession.

European law aimed at promoting movement of individuals within Member States through mutual recognition of qualifications, lays down minimum conditions for specialist training programmes. The GDC has ensured that these minimum conditions are satisfied for all the dental specialities it recognises.

The lists indicate the registered dentists who are entitled to use a specialist title, but do not restrict the right of any registered dentists to practise in any particular field of dentistry or the right of any specialist to practise in other fields of dentistry.

Where are the Lists held?

The GDC is the sole competent authority in the UK for the dental specialities in European and UK domestic law. This means that, as well as having responsibility for setting up and maintaining specialist lists, the GDC has overall responsibility for standards of education and training for the dental specialities. The GDC fulfils this responsibility in partnership with the Faculties of Dental Surgery, the Universities, the Postgraduate Dental Deans and Directors and Joint Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry, which includes input from the Specialist Societies, through an Accord agreed in May 1996.

Dental lists are published annually, as appendices to the dental register and are published on the GDC website at www.gdc-uk.org

How many lists are there?

The GDC currently has specialist lists in

Oral Surgery and Surgical Dentistry

Oral Medicine

Oral Microbiology

Oral Pathology

Endodontics

Periodontics

Prosthodontics

Restorative Dentistry

Orthodontics
Paediatric Dentistry
Dental Public Health

Who can join the list?

The routes of entry to specialist lists are not identical for all specialities. Entry requirements are derived from the European Primary and Specialist Qualifications Regulations 1998 ("the European Regulations" and from the GDC (Distinctive Branches of Dentistry) Regulations 1998 ("the GDC Regulations").

Entry route to a specialist list

A dentist may qualify for entry to a Specialist list if (s)he:

has specialist qualifications in their chosen dental speciality awarded outside the United Kingdom and satisfies the Council that they are equivalent to those required for the award of a CCST in their chosen dental speciality:-

OR

has knowledge and experience in dental speciality which satisfies the Council as being equivalent to the knowledge and experience which would be acquired during the training required for the award of completion of a CCST in the dental speciality.

Transitional arrangements

The European and GDC regulations recognise that existing "specialists" should be entitled to apply for entry to the relevant specialist list, without reference to the entry routes described above, on a transitional basis. For a limited period, existing specialists are able to apply for entry under transitional arrangements, provided they apply to the GDC within the specified period.

Transitional arrangements apply for a specified period from establishment of the Specialist list.

Existing specialists who wish to take advantage of these transitional arrangements must apply to the GDC by the relevant date. Existing specialists are defined as follows:

those who are, or have been, a consultant (or Honorary, but not locum, consultant) in special care dentistry in the National Health Service;

those who are otherwise deemed to be eligible following individual assessment of their application in respect of their specialist training, qualifications or experience. Those seeking entry to a specialist list on the basis of experience, must satisfy the GDC that the experience has given them a level of experience equivalent to that which they might reasonably be expected to have attained, if they had a CCST in Special Care Dentistry.

In Summary, the assessment is made on the basis of training, qualifications and experience at the level of the award of a CCST.

In assessing experience, the critical factor will be the expertise acquired. Indicators of such expertise may include scope of practice, source and type of referral, professional publications, involvement in continuing professional education and professional standing in the dental community. Training or qualifications may be useful indicators of expertise, for the purpose of assessing an applicant's expertise.

Regulations provide for mediated entry only for existing specialists. Applications can therefore only have two outcomes: either the requirements for mediated entry are satisfied or they are not. On this basis, applicants will only be advised of the outcome of their application and their right to make further applications within the specified period; and their right of appeal. Each subsequent application by an unsuccessful applicant will be dealt with as an entirely fresh application.

The assessment of an application, does not include an assessment of what additional qualifications, training or experience would satisfy the requirements. Guidance to applicants on career development and related professional issues should be obtained through the normal channels. The Regulations do not provide for recommendations for entry to specialist lists, under the mediated route, to be made subject to conditions. No guidance should be given to applicants, which implies that taking certain steps will ensure automatic entry to a list before or after the expiry of the transitional period. The requirements for mediated entry to a specialist list must be satisfied within the transitional period.

Applications for mediated entry to the Specialist List in Special Care Dentistry during the transitional period will be assessed against the Speciality-specific guidelines given in Annex1.

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APPENDIX 1

Guidance criteria for mediation onto a Specialist List in Special Care Dentistry

SECTION A - ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

Existing NHS / Honorary Consultant contract

- Holder of an existing NHS consultant / Honorary Consultant contract or EU equivalence, in Special Care Dentistry

OR

Possession of a relevant or equivalent postgraduate qualification

MSc in Special Care Dentistry / Gerodontology

Membership in Special Care Dentistry

Diploma in Special Care Dentistry

Additional relevant qualifications would be considered on their merit

Membership of Specialist society- BSDH or BSG for at least 12 months

NOTE

If essential criteria in Section A are satisfied, then applicant can move on to Section B

SECTION B

3. Evidence of experience which has given the applicant the required level of expertise

Experience	Possible sources of evidence	points
<input type="checkbox"/> A minimum of 5 years full time (or WTE), within last 10 years, experience in Special Care Dentistry. This would be equivalent to the proposed Joint Advisory Committee in Special Care Dentistry training programme and two years clinical experience.	CV Portfolio	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Provision of a sample of referrals (20 over 2 years) from primary, secondary and/or tertiary care practitioners, of a wide range of clinical cases for patients with complex special needs.	Portfolio Anonymised referral letters	2

<p>□ Clinical experience in a wide range of clinical cases for patients with complex special needs. <i>Senior dentists who have narrowed their field of practice to specific patient groups, should be able to demonstrate (through their CV), their previous comprehensive experience.</i></p> <p>Learning Disability Physical Disability Medically Compromised Mental Health Gerodontology Sensory Impairment Emotional Impairment Social Impairment Other- specify for consideration</p>	<p>CV Portfolio Testimonials Log book</p>	<p>1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1</p>
<p>□ Evidence of the use of different treatment modalities, for management of complex patients, (for example, behavioural management techniques, conscious sedation and GA):-</p> <p>Behaviour management Conscious Sedation General Anaesthesia Other, eg hypnosis, acupuncture</p>	<p>CV, Portfolio Case load Quality Standards CPD</p>	<p>1 1 1 1</p>
<p>□ Experience of providing care in a variety of clinical settings:- Primary Care Secondary Care Domiciliary Care</p>	<p>CV and Portfolio</p>	<p>1 1 1</p>
<p>□ Evidence of shared care, to demonstrate working as part of a team to ensure optimum care for patients, with:- (need to differentiate between shared care and joint dental working) Local dental or health care practitioners Social services Multi-disciplinary teams e.g. learning disability team Consultants in Dental or Medical Specialities Other- for example specialist services</p>	<p>CV and Portfolio Testimonials</p>	<p>1 1 1 1 1</p>
<p>□ Provides advice and/or second opinions or treatment planning to other clinicians, on a regular basis i.e. > once a month</p>	<p>Testimonials</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>□ Evidence of participation in clinical governance in relation to SCD such as:- Audit Peer review Risk Management Quality Assurance Lead role for Clinical Governance in SCD</p>	<p>CV and Portfolio</p>	<p>1 1 1 1 1</p>

<input type="checkbox"/> Taking a lead clinical role for developing a local infrastructure for the delivery of Special Care Dentistry	CV	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership of :- National Working Groups in relation to SCD National Committees in relation to Special Care Dentistry	CV	1 1

Minimum score of this section = 25

Teaching and Training

Teaching and Training	Possible sources of evidence	Points
Curriculum development of relevance to Special Care Dentistry for:- Dental Care Professionals Undergraduate dental students Postgraduate dental students Specialist Training Other – please specify for consideration	CV and Portfolio	1 1 1 1 1
Delivery of training and education in Special Care Dentistry:- Dental Care Professionals Undergraduate dental students Postgraduate dental students Specialist Training Training junior staff / multi professional training Other – please specify for consideration	CV and Portfolio	1 1 1 1 1 1
Experience as an Examiner of postgraduate qualifications in Special Care Dentistry	CV and Portfolio	1
Evidence of CPD in Teaching and Training	CV and Portfolio	1

Minimum score of this section = 3

Research and Development

Research	Possible sources of evidence	Points
Oral or poster presentations on Special Care Dentistry at:- Local / regional National meetings International conferences	CV, Portfolio	1 1 1
Publications in peer reviewed journals relevant to Special Care Dentistry in the last five years	CV, Portfolio	2

Other publications of relevance to Special Care Dentistry, such as:- Local or regional guidelines National guidelines Chapters Books	CV, Portfolio	1 2 1 2
Supervision of research in Special Care Dentistry:- Projects Certificates Diploma or equivalent, Masters or equivalent PhD	CV, Portfolio	1 1 1 2 3

Minimum score of this section = 2

Management

Management	Possible sources of evidence	Points
Development of protocols of relevance to Special Care Dentistry that have been adopted for use	CV, Portfolio	1
Development of Care Pathways in Special Care Dentistry that have been adopted for use	CV, Portfolio and Testimonials	1
Evidence of Involvement with Patient and Public Groups in the development of Special Care Dentistry	CV, Portfolio	1

Minimum score of this section = 1

The applicant must achieve the minimum score for each section and total minimum score of 40 points.

Continuing Professional Development- Mandatory section

<input type="checkbox"/> Registration with the United Kingdom General Dental Council	Current GDC Certificate	Yes / No
<input type="checkbox"/> A minimum of 250 hours of CPD in the last 5 years in accordance with the latest guidance from the General Dental Council, of which a minimum of 15 hours each year should be in SCD	CV, GDC declaration	Yes/ No
<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of good standing in the dental community demonstrated for example by testimonials from referring practitioners	CV, Portfolio and Testimonials	Yes / No

Recent guidance from the GDC states that, as from the start of a dentist's second CPD cycle, all dentists should carry out verifiable CPD in three core recommended subjects. The recommended core subjects and suggested minimum number of verifiable hours per CPD cycle are as follows:

- a. medical emergencies (at least 10 hours per CPD cycle)
 - b. disinfection and decontamination (at least 5 hours per CPD cycle)
 - c. radiography and radiation protection (at least 5 hours per CPD cycle)
- In addition, the GDC recommends that dentists working in a clinical environment carry out CPD (verifiable or general) to make sure they are up to date in:

- legal and ethical issues
- handling complaints

The GDC also recommends that all dentists use a personal development plan, so that patients and dentists themselves benefit as much as possible from their CPD.

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Collecting the evidence

Collection of evidence for “grand parenting” can be broadly categorised into three components.

1)CV

This usually involves the collection of generic information but should have a focus of relevance to SCD:

- GDC registration
- Qualifications/examinations of relevance to Special Care Dentistry
- Posts held
- Clinical experience
- Evidence of clinical leadership in SCD
- Clinical governance
- Research and publications
- CPD
- Membership of Committees, Specialist Societies, etc.

2) Portfolio of experience

This is expected to be representative of the applicant’s normal clinical commitment.

The log might include:

- Case mix
- Age groups treated
- Types of treatment provided
- Differing modalities of delivery (LA, sedation, general anaesthesia, hypnosis etc)
- Differing locations of delivery, primary, secondary & tertiary care, domiciliary provision etc.
- Evidence of multi-disciplinary working
- Evidence of Teaching and Training
- Evidence of Research and publications
- Evidence of non-clinical activity for example, managerial or administrative tasks related to Special Care Dentistry.

It is recognised that some practitioners in Special Care Dentistry deliver care that is focused in a specific area. However, the management of patients with a broad range of complex needs should be evident from their CV.

3) Testimonials

Evidence to support your application may be in the form of testimonials. This might include structured references from consultants, referring practitioners and colleagues.