

GP Team & Primary Care Clinician Training for Better Oral Health

Training for **GP**, **clinical**, and **practice staff**



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Caring for Patients' Oral Health

Quite often GP's are the frontline point of access for dental emergencies. By 2020, 1 in 5 people in the UK will be over the age of 65, some of whom will require additional help caring for their oral health. Meanwhile, tooth extractions for those aged 19 and under cost the NHS approximately £50m each year, with children and parents missing productive days of school and work to treat preventable tooth decay. Vulnerable persons, such as those with diseases and disabilities, face significant barriers when it comes to dental care.

Individuals should be able to eat, speak, and socialise without active disease or embarrassment. Maintaining oral health supports self-esteem, dignity, social integration and nutrition, while poor oral health can lead to pain, infection, tooth loss, and can negatively affect confidence.

Bridging the Gap with Training

GPs and their teams have their ears to the ground when it comes to identifying early-warning symptoms in oral health. They can make a marked contribution to public oral health by educating patients and signposting them to general dental services when they do not have a dentist.

GPs also tend to interact with a large swathe of the population covering children, adults, the elderly, and at-risk groups. With this in mind, the Directorate of Multi-Disciplinary Dental Education (DMDE) working across the North East and North Cumbria is giving **free training for GP teams** to help improve public oral health in the UK.



"The Directorate of Multi-Disciplinary Dental Education is committed to delivering an understanding of the importance of oral health, as well as its relevance to general health, to non-dental professionals including doctors, community pharmacists and care homes. These initiatives include the reduction of preventable 'blue light' incidents, the management of patients with complex medical conditions, the potential to reduce general anesthetic admissions, and the provision of information to doctors to enable them to signpost patients to dental practices when necessary."

Malcolm Smith, Postgraduate Dental Dean



Staff said they felt they had learnt from the training and were confident about putting it into practice.”

Training in Oral Health

Good oral health promotes better overall health, reducing the number of preventable incidents and decreasing costs to the NHS.

Oral health conditions can be an early indicator of underlying issues, a cause of systemic illnesses, or become aggravated by medication. Teaching patients basic oral hygiene can help to prevent serious interventions further down the line, and improve quality of life and general health.

What to Expect from the Training

GP front-line, clinical, and practice management staff will learn to incorporate key aspects of oral health into their daily interactions with patients.

DMDE’s aim is to help GP teams with prevention and detection in oral health. Training will help GPs identify markers of disease in patients’ mouths, treat for some post-dental care issues, train on when to advise visiting a dentist, and more.

Training will help GPs, Primary Care Clinicians and their teams to:

- Explain the importance of good oral health in relation to systemic health
- Prescribe some medications on behalf of specialist dentists
- Recognise a range of common oral conditions
- List common medications with a negative impact on oral health
- Demonstrate and discuss effective oral hygiene routines, including tooth brushing, fluoride and caries reduction
- Differentiate between emergency and urgent dental care
- Define NHS treatment bands, costs and exemptions
- Signpost patients to a dental practice



Book your free training today at your workplace or at a local venue

Oral health as a brief intervention is also available via e-learning. The module presents the learning through a variety of media and promotes a flexible, convenient and interactive way of assimilating the information. Video content complements interactive audio/visual demonstrations of the concepts within the training. These demonstrations are backed up with supporting information and links to other resources or those wanting to investigate specific topics further.

The module is broken down into short sections. Progress is tracked, making it easy to navigate content, digest information, and resume where you left off should you need to pause your learning.

To begin your training, head to:
<https://learning.necsu.nhs.uk/>

Book your free place today at your workplace or at a local venue.

Contact **Janet Fullard**

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Training can be delivered at your place of work or a suitable venue to meet your needs.

Discover our courses

DMDE offer an array of oral health training programmes for non-dental health and social care professionals across the North East and North Cumbria.

For more detailed information on our training programmes, head to: **https://madeinheene.hee.nhs.uk/dental_training/Non-dental-professionals**, or contact our Clinical Lead,

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