



Level 4

# Oral Health Practitioner



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# FAQs

**Q: Who is the qualification for?**

**A:** Oral Health Practitioners have a high degree of autonomy and have responsibility for working directly with patients performing a range of oral health preventive procedures which involve working in a patient's mouth.

The Oral Health Practitioner role complements the role of other dental professionals and fits in the dental career structure at a higher level than a dental nurse but below a dental hygienist, hygienist/therapist or dentist.

**Q: Is it part of an apprenticeship standard or initiative?**

**A:** ST0542 – Oral Health Practitioner.

**Q: What does the qualification cover?**

**A:** This qualification allows candidates to learn, develop and practice in general dental practice or other healthcare and community settings to provide service including brief interventions such as targeted oral health advice to meet the needs of the individual.

You will carry out general health screening activities, alongside oral health ones, to measure the holistic health of the individual you are working with e.g.: checking for diabetes, blood tests or taking blood pressure.

**Q: What opportunities for progression are there?**

**A:** As an Oral Health Practitioner, you may progress later in your career to a Dental Therapist or Dental Hygienist.

**Q: What is an Oral Health Practitioner Apprenticeship?**

**A:** It's a work-based program combining on-the-job training with classroom learning, equipping you with skills to achieve the objectives to enable you to work autonomously, including in people's mouths, acting within your scope of practice and under the referral of a registered clinician e.g. Dentist, Dental Hygienist or Dental Therapist whilst undertaking dental activities.

# FAQs

**Q: What skills will I learn?**

**A:** Working in the direction of a dentist you will take dental bacterial plaque indices and debris scores, apply fluoride varnish, take clinical photographs, take impressions and carry out tooth brushing in the patient's mouth.

You will prepare and maintain the clinical environment, carry out infection control and prevention procedures, and prepare, mix and handle bio-materials. Often working alone in the community, you will deliver oral health prevention to patients, deliver oral health education and promotion to the public including clinical preventative advice.

You will carry out general health screening activities, alongside oral health ones, to measure the holistic health of the individual you are working with e.g. checking for diabetes, blood tests or taking blood pressure.

**Q: What level qualification is it equivalent to?**

**A:** This qualification is equivalent to a first year undergraduate degree or HNC.

**Q: What industry sectors is it suitable for?**

**A:** Dental: Oral Health Practitioner, Community Oral Health Educator, Oral Health Champion, Oral Health Ambassador, Oral Health Improvement Lead.

**Q: What will I be responsible for?**

**A:** Performing a range of oral health preventive procedures which involve working in a patient's mouth.



# Structure

## Entry Requirements

To become an Oral Health Practitioner, you must already be a dental nurse or other appropriate dental care professional registered with the General Dental Council e.g. an Orthodontic Therapist, with a minimum of 2 GCSEs – English and Math.

## Structure

Our candidates are trained to the highest standards and are fully supported to develop all the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to be an Oral Health Practitioner.

The course duration is typically 14 - 18 months.

## Knowledge

Our course is delivered via live training webinars with specialist tutors.

## Skills and Behaviors

You will be appointed a designated Learning & Skills Teacher, who will coach you through your qualification and complete regular assessments with you to support you in completing your qualification. You will have weekly contact with your tutor.

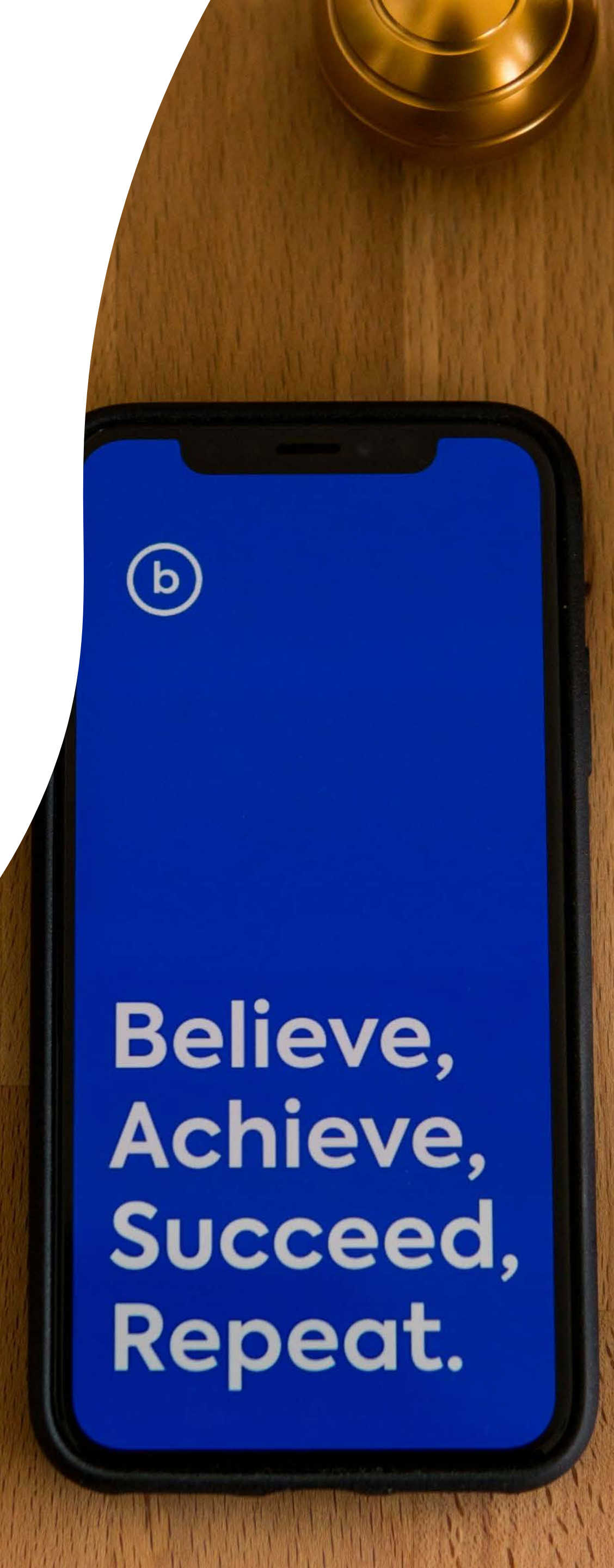


# Course Contents

- What is an Oral Practitioner's Role & Function?
- Professional Development
- Communication
- Craniofacial Anatomy & Development
- Oral Anatomy & Development
- Periodontal Disease
- Oral Health Education
- Clinical Practice
- Maintaining the Clinical Environment
- Medical Emergencies
- Impression Taking
- Fluoride Application
- Intra Oral Photography

- Community-Based Oral Health
- Group Oral Health Education Sessions
- Oral Health Promotion
- Behaviour Change
- General Health & Nutrition

Completion of these units will produce a portfolio of evidence of your competency.





## What is an Oral Health Practitioner's Role & Function?

You will be introduced to the role and responsibilities and essential attributes and behaviours required to become a successful Oral Health Practitioner.

The Oral Health Practitioner role complements the role of other dental professionals and fits in the dental career structure at a higher level than a dental nurse but below a dental hygienist, hygienist/therapist or dentist.

Working in the direction of a dentist you will take dental bacterial plaque indices and debris scores, apply fluoride varnish, take clinical photographs, take impressions and carry out tooth brushing in the patient's mouth.

You will prepare and maintain the clinical environment, carry out infection control and prevention procedures, and prepare, mix and handle bio-materials.

Often working alone in the community, you will deliver oral health prevention to patients, deliver oral health education and promotion to the public including clinical preventative advice.

You will provide integrated general, oral health advice and preventative treatments in line with treatment plans to the community your practice serves.

You will work with early years groups, primary and secondary schools, in care homes, in 'care at home' situations, in the child and adolescent mental health arena, in hospitals, in general dental practice or other healthcare and community settings to provide services.

This includes brief interventions such as targeted oral health advice to meet the needs of the individual, as well as general health screening activities, alongside oral health ones.

# Professional Development

The learner will gain the knowledge to become proactive in your development and commit to lifelong learning by use of a Personal Development Plan (PDP), using personal reflection and continuous improvement.

Learning how to assess and reflect upon your capabilities and limitations.

Learning the principles relating to evidence-based approaches to learning, clinical and professional practice and decision-making; including using a range of sources of evidence.

You will learn to Manage your own time, resources and personal behaviour, as well as learn to assess and reflect upon your capabilities and limitations, and the consequences of your actions, attitude and behaviour.





## Communication

You will gain the know-how to a range of methods of communicating with individuals across the age range.

How to check you have been understood and the barriers to communication and a range of ways to overcome them.

You will gain the skills to communicate effectively with and about patients, their representatives and the dental team, and with carers, other healthcare workers or schoolteachers.

Be able to handle complaints effectively and within GDC guidelines and learn the theories and concepts of motivational interviewing i.e. The different ways to support behaviour change according to whether you are working with an individual in a dental surgery or with carers, schools, homes or care homes and on a group basis



# Craniofacial & Oral Anatomy & Development

You will learn the relevant dental oral and craniofacial anatomy and physiology and their application to patient management.

Including a range of general health screening activities related to your role and the population, you work with to enable you to recognise an abnormality and how to refer it appropriately.





## Periodontal Disease

You will learn the range of normal human structures and functions, with particular reference to dental caries, oral medicine, periodontal disease and dental treatment and how this relates to working in the mouth along with the range of preventative oral and general health procedures used in your role.

Learn how to select techniques according to the individual's need and how to adapt your techniques and solve problems to suit individuals with special requirements, within your area of competence.

You will learn how to take dental bacterial plaque indices and food debris scores in the mouth of individuals, using a range of personal oral care tools, whilst treating people with dignity, respecting their choices, gaining valid consent for all treatments and respecting confidentiality.

# Oral Health Education

You will develop the skills to autonomously plan practice sessions in the community.

Plan clinical preventative sessions.

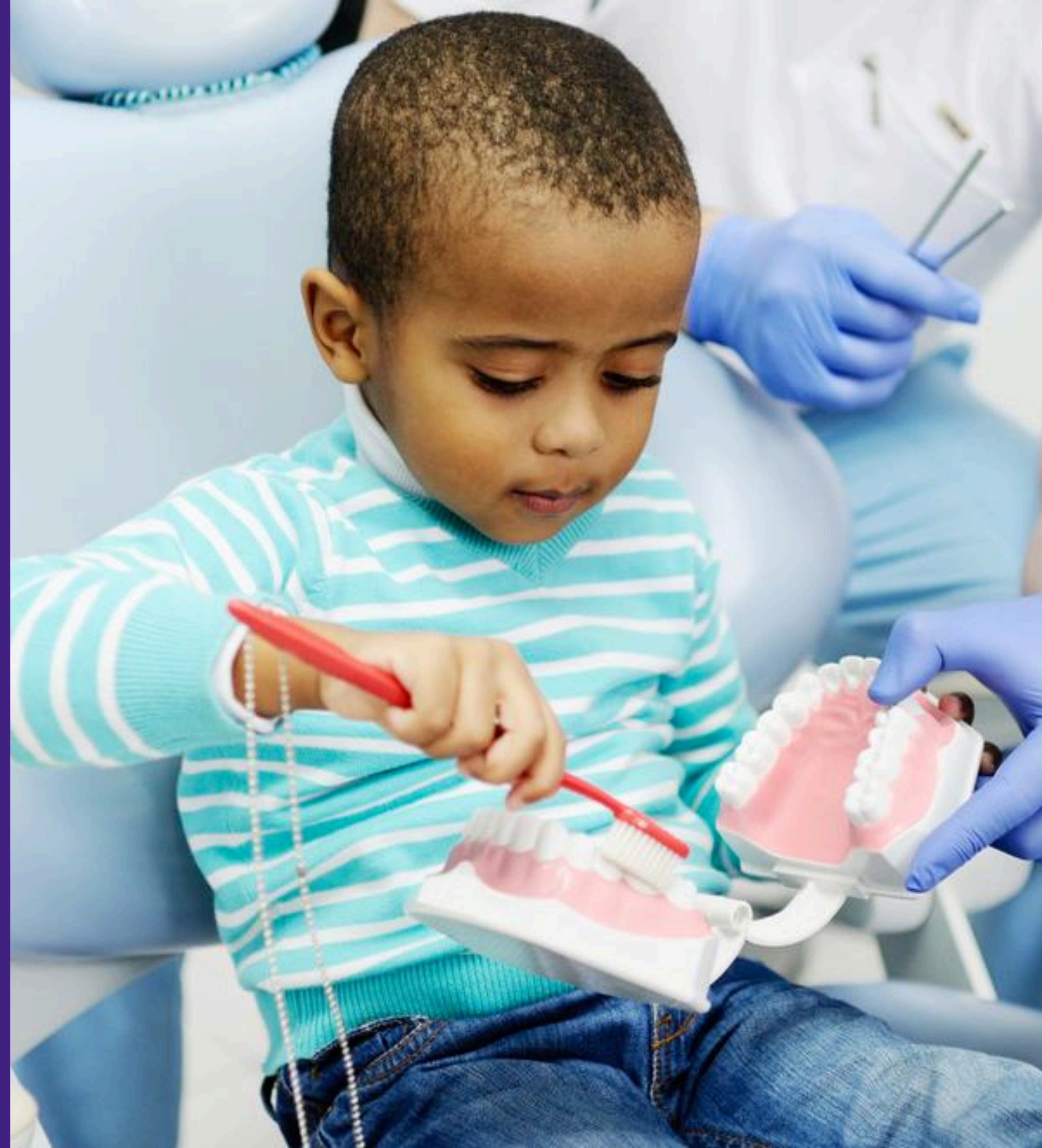
Deliver brief clinical preventative advice interventions to targeted groups.

Prepare, deliver and evaluate oral health messages to groups or individuals.

Determine and implement strategies for improving oral health in the community.

Working work as part of a team, you will have the knowledge and courage to challenge areas of concern and work to evidence based best practices,

You will be reliable and consistent, taking responsibility for the integrity of your actions and completed work





## Clinical Practice

How to maintain a clinical environment and how to control and prevent infection.

Know the x-rays, photos and records you are required to take and keep.

Know the Legislation on prescription-only medicines and understand the types of medical emergencies that may arise and ways to address them.

Be able to prepare, mix and handle bio-materials.

Learn the art of Impression Taking.

Fluoride Application Know-how and Intro Oral Photography.

Learn how to Undertake general health screening including checking for diabetes, taking blood pressure readings and taking finger-prick blood for blood tests.

Understand the normal parameters associated with blood pressure and blood sugar levels how to carry out physiological measurements and what steps to take if results are outside the norm.

Know which other services are available in your area, what they provide how people can access them and how to refer individuals to other services if necessary.

# Community Based Oral Health

You will gain knowledge of General health systems and be able to review their relationship to oral health using high-quality evidence such as research documents and be able to outline the basic principles of population health, including demographic, social, UK and international oral health trends; a range of common risk factors.

Understand determinants of health inequalities and how they are measured and have knowledge of the guidelines for best practice including national and local health initiatives.

Understand the needs of different patient groups you work with across the age range including those who, are nervous, have learning disabilities, have mental health conditions or phobias, require palliative care or have cognitive impairment such as dementia.

Using your communication skills you will be able to support individuals and groups to change their behaviour and provide motivational interviews.

You will also be able to determine and implement strategies for improving oral health in the community.





## General Health & Nutrition

You will gain the knowledge and skills required to:

- Undertake general health screening including checking for diabetes, taking blood pressure readings and taking finger-prick blood for blood tests.
- Know the Normal parameters associated with blood pressure and blood sugar levels how to carry out physiological measurements and what steps to take if results are outside the norm.
- How, why and when to take and process finger-prick blood samples.
- Provide oral and general systemic advice e.g. tobacco cessation or diet advice.
- You will learn how diet, nutrition and hydration link with systemic and oral health including obesity.
- Learn Ways to encourage self-care and motivation.
- Learn a range of general health screening activities related to your role and the population you work with, so you can recognise an abnormality and refer appropriately.

Off The Job

