

Questions and Answers

Transitioning to the dental nurse apprenticeship standard

27 June 2017

Will SmartScreen be available for Level 3 at any point?

We do not have plans to develop SmartScreen resources this year.

I never received notification about meetings coming up and have been informed the meeting is fully booked. Will there be more than one in London?

The dental networks were promoted using our email updates register, so if individuals are registered for this service then they should receive all communications regarding dental nursing. The alert email do sometimes go into junk folders in some cases so it is worth checking this and ensuring that emails from City & Guilds are not on your blocked items. Dates for the next series of networks should be agreed by the end of September and we will communicate these to centres using the alert system. As usual there will be one in London and one in Wakefield.

Will there be discounts for multiple end-point assessment (EPA) bookings?

The price for EPA services is our catalogue price. Centres may wish to discuss whether there is any flexibility on this with their Business Manager.

How many professional discussions can be carried out in one day?

The number of professional discussions carried out in one day will depend on a number of factors. These would include, how many apprentices have booked EPA and whether they are all in the same location. We envisage that an assessor could

conduct at least 4 professional discussions in one day if they were in the same venue.

Is SmartScreen free?

We do not have a SmartScreen resource to support dental nursing, though we do for many other areas. There is normally a charge for SmartScreen on an annual license basis.

Do learners still need to complete the Employee Rights and Responsibilities and/or Personal Learning and Thinking Skills qualifications?

Apprentices who are currently working towards the SASE frameworks will need to complete the 4239 Level 3 Award in Employment and personal learning skills in health. This is not a requirement for any apprentice registered on the new dental nurse apprenticeship standard.

How many times can an apprentice resit the EPA including the project or interview?

Apprentices are allowed to resit both elements of the end-point assessment. Apprentices will not be able to take part in their professional discussions unless they have successfully completed the work based project. The number of resits allowed is determined by the trailblazer group and should be detailed in the assessment plan which is currently being refreshed. The refreshed assessment plan should contain specific details on this. It is also worth saying that resits incur costs and that the employer will need to fund these either from their levy account or from the co-funding arrangements. If the funding allocation has been used up then the employer would still need to fund the resit cost.

What is the value of the standard in comparison to the current Level 3 certificate?

The achievement of the Level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing is a mandatory requirement of the apprenticeship standard and needs to be evidenced as part of the Gateway. The apprentice needs to complete the end-point assessment in order to achieve the standard. The first component is to complete a work based project, the subject of which should be agreed between the apprentice and the employer. There will be a choice of subjects which City & Guilds will supply. It is hoped that by completing this work the apprentice will be able to further add value to the practice or setting as a result of their work. In addition, the apprenticeship itself is graded pass and distinction, which would also give the apprentice an opportunity to differentiate themselves from others if they achieve a distinction.

My centre have been looking at EPA centres and have been advised that some are offering a multiple choice question papers done online. Can dental nursing EPA be done this way?

The requirements of EPA for the dental nurse standard are clearly articulated in the assessment plan. The two components are completion of a work based project and taking part in a professional discussion. There are no alternatives. Each apprenticeship standard is assessed in line with the accompanying assessment plan. There are some end point assessments, such as for the adult care worker standard, where online multiple choice question papers are included as part of the end point assessment, however this is not the case for the dental nurse standard.

I read that students must register with GDC before EPA can take place. Is this correct as this can take a long time?

No – this is not the case. The gateway requirement is for the apprentice to have completed a qualification which is approved by the General Dental Council, such as the City & Guilds Levels 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing. The apprentice may then apply for their registration with the GDC.

Can learners work in groups on projects?

The project element of EPA must be the apprentice's own work as it is part of the overall assessment of their competence which is the outcome of a successful EPA. When group activities are used in assessments it is very difficult to assign individual contribution and achievement. The project as an assessment must meet the usual rules in that the evidence must be valid, authentic, current, reliable, and sufficient.

If we did the package and EPA which includes the qualification, will there be any new resources from City & Guilds?

Guidance to support –preparation for the end point assessment will be included in the EPA pack. This will include outlines of what to expect from the project and the professional discussion. There will be additional training opportunities for tutors to refresh or upskill in terms of conducting professional discussions. These events will incur a charge.

Is there an opportunity that we as assessors and verifiers can complete the EPA?

I think you are asking if centre staff can attempt the EPA. If this is the question – then I think it is unlikely as we would need proof that the learner/apprentice had

achieved the gateway and as centre staff would not have been on the apprenticeship on-programme element I am not sure how this would work.

Will you supply a mapping document from the qualification to the standard?

Both the standard and the City & Guilds Diploma in Dental Nursing are designed to meet the GDC learning outcomes for dental nurses, therefore there is very close correlation between the two. On reviewing the links between the qualification and the standard at networks with centre staff, it was felt that the links between the qualification and standard are very clearly identified, so at this time, there is no separate mapping document.