



Membership of the Joint Dental Faculties (MJDF) Examination Syllabus

Patient examination and diagnosis

	1. Obtain, interpret and record an accurate history that incorporates appropriate dental, medical (including medication history and allergies), social, demographical, cultural, nutritional, psychological and genetic factors
	2. Assess skeletal, dental and occlusal relationships in the primary, mixed and permanent dentition accurately, and identify conditions which may require treatment or referral onwards
	3. Assess hard and soft tissue developmental abnormalities and diagnose conditions which may require investigation, treatment or onward referral
	4. Assess the patients' standard of oral hygiene accurately and use relevant information such as dental attendance pattern, ability, motivation and commitment to promote its improvement
	5. Distinguish between mucosal, gingival and periodontal health and disease, and identify conditions which may require investigation, treatment or onward referral
	6. Identify the location, extent and activity of tooth surface loss and caries, and plan for appropriate management on all levels of complexity appropriate to their own competence and resources available
	7. Distinguish between pulpal health and disease, and identify conditions which may require treatment or onward referral
	8. Prescribe an appropriate and risk assessed radiographic imaging examination that meets the diagnostic needs of the patient in line with current national guidance
	9. Perform an accurate radiographic examination and report the radiograph correctly in line with current national guidance
	10. Generate a differential diagnosis and treatment / management plan based on evidence from a health assessment / urgent care assessment and risk screening, through the correct interpretation of clinical findings
	11. Assess the influence of systemic diseases and other disabilities (and associated treatment) on oral health and the delivery of dental treatment
	12. Evaluate and manage patients' treatment expectations, identify the degree to which they can be met and discuss the different options
	13. Perform an accurate assessment of the patient to enable the early diagnosis of potentially malignant oral diseases and / or orofacial neoplastic change, and be knowledgeable about referral protocols (including local arrangements) taking into account the degree of urgency
	14. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles of a basic clinical examination, including blood pressure, pulse, respiration and temperature
	15. Demonstrate knowledge of (and where appropriate, perform) diagnostic procedures, including biopsy

Treatment planning and patient management	
	1. Present to the patient (and check their understanding of) the findings resulting from the history and examination, including clinical and radiographic results, differential diagnoses, treatment options, prognoses, sequenced treatment plan and individualised recall intervals based on risk assessment in a manner that they can understand
	2. Develop and discuss with the patient (or carer) in a manner they can understand, a comprehensive and accurate written care or treatment plan where options are based on the individual needs of the patient
	3. Formulate individualised, written care or treatment plans for patients according to their individual circumstances, medical history, needs and selected treatment options
	4. Discuss with the patient or carer (in a manner they can understand) their responsibilities associated with the treatment plan, including preventative education and time requirements for treatment
	5. Obtain valid informed consent from the patient / parent / guardian before starting treatment, explaining all relevant options in a manner they can understand, and ensure the patients' consent remains valid at all stages of the treatment
Health promotion and disease prevention	
	1. Recognise opportunities for and provide patients / parents / carers with comprehensive, accurate and evidence-based preventative education and instruction in self-care methods tailored to the individual needs of the patient
	2. Identify habits that are detrimental oral health and provide patients with an effective strategy for their control
Medical and dental emergencies	
	1. Identify medical and dental emergencies which are beyond his or her scope of management (including oral infections and sepsis), and refer with an appropriate degree of urgency
	2. Recognise, manage (and where required, provide) basic and immediate life support for medical emergencies, in line with guidelines from the UK Resuscitation Council
	3. Diagnose and effectively manage common dental emergencies (and pain), including those resulting from treatment complications or failures, infection, allergic response or trauma (including avulsed teeth)
	4. Knowledge of potential drug interactions and side-effects (including prevention thereof) and manage situations appropriately when they occur
Periodontal therapy and management	
	1. Evaluate the periodontal tissues and provide a differential diagnosis of the patient's periodontal condition
	2. Integrate periodontal findings into the patient's comprehensive treatment plan and understand how the periodontal status of the patient will impact upon his / her treatment plan



	3. Communicate, motivate and support behavioural change in patients in order to achieve effective self-management of the periodontal condition
	4. Establish a prognosis for periodontally involved teeth and inform the patient of this
	5. Assess the requirement for and provide oral hygiene advice
	6. Evaluate the results of periodontal treatment and establish and monitor a suitable recall maintenance programme for patients
	7. Assess the requirement for specialised advice and refer the patient appropriately
	8. Can demonstrate understanding of the aetiology of periodontal disease, and is able to explain this to patients
	9. Can describe the conservative management of gingival recession
Hard and soft tissue surgery	
	1. Appropriate diagnosis and management of any common complications
	2. Effective management of patients with relevant medical conditions including bleeding disorders, and medications eg all oral anti-coagulants and bisphosphonates
	3. Referral of patients requiring complex treatment, sedation or general anaesthesia, or surgical treatment of hard and soft tissue lesions
	4. Provides preventative and supportive care for patients with implants, and can describe the basic principles and techniques involved in the surgical placement of dental implants
Non-surgical management of the hard and soft tissues of the head and neck	
	1. Diagnose localised odontogenic infections; diagnose and refer post-operative surgical complications; and diagnose and refer major odontogenic infections with the appropriate degree of urgency
	2. Understand the investigation and diagnosis of oral mucosal diseases, including the early referral of patients with possible pre-malignant or malignant lesions
	3. Describe the pathology and clinical significance of neoplastic and non-neoplastic disease of the head and neck
	4. Describe disorders in patients with craniofacial pain including the initial management of temporomandibular disorders, and refer more complex cases that require specialised management
	5. Assess the need for, prescribe and where appropriate administer pharmacotherapeutic agents in the safe treatment of all dental patients
	6. Optimise prescribing of antimicrobials through up to date knowledge and understanding of antimicrobial resistance and guidance of antibiotic usage
	7. Practice pharmaco-vigilance during the care of patients, including adverse drug interactions, effects and errors

Management of the developing dentition	
	1. Diagnose malocclusions and refer those who require specialised advice and / or management
	2. Assess occlusion and diagnose malocclusion or disturbances of the developing dentitions for the purpose of carrying out interceptive treatment or onward referral at the appropriate developmental stage
	3. Recognise detrimental oral habits and occlusal trauma and where appropriate manage or refer
	4. Recognise and manage problems related to orthodontic treatment
Restoration of teeth	
	1. Assess patients to evaluate their risk factors for caries, and formulate a suitable preventative strategy
	2. Evaluate the restorative prognosis for individual teeth and relate this to the overall treatment plan and patient's aims and expectations
	3. Recognise dental trauma in the emergency situation, including the re-implantation of avulsed teeth, and then arrange follow-up and subsequent management
	4. Use a range of materials and techniques in the application of appropriate consideration of occlusal articulators
	5. Be competent in the use of the rubber dam and provide working length determination for endodontic procedures
	6. Can demonstrate modern restorative concepts around minimally invasive techniques
Replacement of teeth	
	1. Interpret diagnostic casts, and gather other relevant data in formulating a diagnosis, prognosis and treatment plan for patients requiring prosthodontic treatment
	2. Evaluate residual ridges, to support and retain fixed and removable prostheses
	3. Design biomechanically sound fixed or removable prostheses and construct provisional fixed restorations
	4. Diagnose, plan, design, and monitor removable partial and complete dentures
	5. Prescribe to, and communicate with, the dental laboratory accurately
	6. Knowledge of current national guidelines relating to the provision of dental implants and local arrangements for NHS provision
Communication with patients, carers & the public	
	1. Increase patients' awareness and understanding of treatment options and procedures by careful explanation and the use of effective communication skills
	2. Inspire confidence in patients (from all age groups and situations) and build rapport through the use of effective interpersonal and communication skills
	3. Present questions and information to the patient (or carer) in a clear, concise and understandable manner



	4. Refer patients from different age groups or situations for care or treatment, giving clear information about choices, in a sensitive manner that causes the least anxiety possible
	5. Communicate effectively with patients, relatives and carers in a manner which respects the patient's privacy, dignity, confidentiality and self-image
	6. Select and compose suitable written communications (electronic and paper-based) which are appropriate for the patient and/or carer in different clinical scenarios
	7. Address challenging communication situations including the effective management of anxiety, anger, confusion or misunderstanding of patients, and offer support to patients where they may need help in making decisions
	8. Effective management of all patients through the use of suitable interpersonal and behavioural skills, including those with anxiety
	9. Listens effectively and is responsive to non-verbal cues
Communication with clinical team & peers	
	1. Communicates with all members of the clinical team and peers in an appropriate manner, which inspires confidence, motivation and teamwork
	2. Is able to interact with all members of the clinical team and peers with due regard to practice policies, rules and regulations, health and safety procedures and appropriate clinical techniques
Communication with other professionals	
	1. Communicate effectively with other professionals (individually and in groups) both verbally and in writing
	2. Discuss professional matters in an appropriate manner
Ethics	
	1. Knowledge of the application of the principles of current GDC publications on standards for dental professionals, that provide guidance to dentists on professional and personal conduct, and can describe the implications of failing to adhere to GDC standards and legislation
	2. Knowledge of the application of the principles of ethical behaviour relevant to dentistry, including honesty, confidentiality, personal and professional integrity and appropriate moral values
	3. A professional approach to patients' complaints in accordance with current GDC standards and accepts responsibility for his/her actions where appropriate
	4. Understands their responsibility with regard to maintaining confidentiality in accordance with current GDC standards and legislation
Professionalism with patients, carers & the public	
	1. Demonstrates effective and ethical decision making
	2. Maintains honesty and confidentiality with all patients
	3. Interacts with patients and carers without discrimination
	4. Maintains the confidentiality and security of patient information, with respect to contemporary legislation and current GDC standards

	5. Regularly reviews and reflects on the outcomes of treatment provided in an effort to assure the highest standards of patient care, and can describe the importance of clinical audit and its regular implementation
	6. Ensures patients (& carers) are provided with comprehensive information about options
	7. Always puts patients' interests before their own, or those of any colleague, business, or organisation
	8. Does not express personal, political, religious or moral beliefs when working in relation to patient care
Professionalism (self)	
	1. A thorough understanding of the professional roles and responsibilities of dentists and DCPs within and outside the NHS, including permitted scope of practice, and rules regarding patients' direct access to treatment provided by DCPs in accordance with current GDC standards
	2. A commitment to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) through the regular completion (and subsequent recording) of CPD activities which update and improve knowledge and skills, and the incorporation of these skills into everyday practice
	3. The ability to critically evaluate new techniques and technologies
	4. Knowledge and understanding of the principles involved in clinical audit and peer review
	5. Knowledge and understanding of the value of appraisal, and engages in this process
Professionalism with clinical team & peers	
	1. Is able to explain in appropriate detail the actions available to be taken with regard to perceived incompetence, impairment or unethical behaviour from colleagues
	2. Interacts with patients, colleagues, team members and peers without discrimination
Personal and practice organisation & management	
	1. An understanding of the day to day running of a general practice, and any other areas of clinical practice relevant to their training, and where to find managerial assistance where necessary
	2. The full, accurate and secure maintenance of patients' information and records, in accordance with current GDC standards
	3. An understanding of the considerations to be made during the selection, care and maintenance of equipment for dental practice, including the appropriate procedures to be implemented with regard to the safety of reusable devices
	4. An understanding of the principles of employment legislation and disciplinary matters
	5. An understanding of the requirements for and processes involved in risk assessment within the workplace and resultant action

	6. The reporting and analysis of incidents and near misses, and the development of strategies (e.g. significant event analysis) to reduce or eliminate the risk of reoccurrence
Personal & practice organisation & management	
	1. The procedures for local and national, serious and critical incident reporting systems
Legislation & regulation	
	1. Takes appropriate responsibility for health and safety issues, including those relating to patients, oneself and practice staff. The foundation dentist has up to date knowledge and understanding of infection control procedures and is competent in the implementation of these in daily practice
	2. Can assess the quality and describe in appropriate detail the safety issues in relation to dental radiography with regard to current guidelines and regulations
	3. Has up to date knowledge and understanding of discrimination and equality legislation, and how this applies in a practice setting
	4. Can describe in appropriate detail the principles of obtaining valid consent for patients of all ages and capacities
	5. Can demonstrate appropriate knowledge and understanding of regulation and legislation that impacts on dentistry and dental practices
	6. The legal and ethical obligations of a dental practitioner and other members of the dental team, and the definition of fitness to practice according to the GDC
	7. Information Governance, Data Protection and Freedom of Information legislation, and the implications of non-compliance
	8. The structure, principles, rules and regulations associated with working as a dentist within the NHS
	9. Avoidance and management of complaints in accordance with current GDC standards, and how/when to seek the advice of a professional indemnity organisation
	10. The requirements for membership of a professional indemnity organisation in accordance with current GDC standards
	11. Legislation and regulation in relation to the provision / manufacture of custom made appliances
Clinical leadership	
	1. Takes account of quality assurance, quality improvement and patient safety, and develops, implements and evaluates strategies to improve quality
	2. Understands the principles of adult learning, and facilitates the learning of patients, families, carers, colleagues and the public as appropriate
	3. Understands the value of mentoring and being a positive role model for other members of the healthcare team
	4. Understands how to act in the interests of patients who have been subjected to clinical harm or errors and how to obtain appropriate advice and support
	5. Demonstrate clinical skills and competencies to other colleagues in an effective manner

