

CURRICULUM FOR SPECIALIST TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Entry to Specialist Training

Entry to specialist training should follow a period of at least two years of general professional training and should be competitive. The MFDS or equivalent will normally be the minimum entry qualification.

2. Specialist Training Programmes in Dental Public Health

Higher specialist training programmes in dental public health are normally of four years duration. Trainees will be expected to complete three years of NHS training and one year of formal academic training at masters level or equivalent. The purpose of the training programme is to give trainees supervised experience in the theory and practice of dental public health and the opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes required by a consultant in the specialty. Training in dental public health aims to give each trainee competence in the core tasks to be carried out in the practice of dental public health.

3. Formal Academic Training

Trainees must undertake 12 months of academic training at masters level or equivalent, eg MSc in Dental Public Health or MPH which includes specific dental modules*

Individuals entering the specialist registrar grade who already possess these qualifications will normally only be required to undertake a further three years of specialist training.

** MPH courses must be approved by the SAC in Dental Public Health and the Examination Board for the DDPH as being adequate to enable individuals to sit the DDPH Examination (although they will not be required to do so)*

4. Programme Content

The distinctive competencies required during training can be divided into the following areas, which are a guide to major areas of experience to which the trainees should normally be exposed in the course of a training programme:

i. Oral health needs and demands assessment

- * Critical evaluation of dental and other scientific literature
- * Preparation of scientific reports
- * Familiarity with indices and determinants of oral disease
- * Understanding of the principles of epidemiology and biostatistics to dentistry
- * Derivation of appropriate indicators of oral health
- * Methods of consumer involvement
- * Familiarity with local, regional, national and international sources of information

ii. Information technology

- * Knowledge of the availability and methods of access to various sources of information within the health service
- * Skills in the use of computers for the collection, collation, manipulation and analysis of data
- * Analysis of epidemiological data including statistical interpretation and application of results
- * Competent in the use of common computer software packages

- * Development of information networks
- iii. Commissioning and evaluation of dental health services
- * Understanding of allocation of resources within the NHS
 - * Understanding of the contracting process through which health services are purchased and monitored
 - * Contracting and service specification development to meet dental health need
 - * Application of appropriate economic analysis
 - * Development of measures of quality of service provision
 - Understanding of the relationships between primary and secondary care and Universities and the NHS
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- iv. Promoting oral health
- * Ability to interpret oral health and dentistry in terms of social relationships and social contexts
 - * Understanding of the principles, methods and limitations of preventive dentistry and oral health promotion
 - * Identifying groups of individuals at risk
 - * Recognition and analysis of moral and ethical problems within dentistry
 - * Understanding of the processes through which health policies are developed, implemented, evaluated and regulated
 - * Development and implementation of oral health strategies
- v. Research and development
- * Identification of appropriate areas of research and development
 - * Understanding of research and development methodology
 - * Application of scientific principles to research in order to evaluate oral health care provision
 - * Policy development
 - * Skills in the conduct of audit
- vi. Teaching and training
- * Ability to provide appropriate undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in dental public health
 - * Ability to respond appropriately in multi-disciplinary/multi-agency settings
 - * Knowledge of the organisation and planning of dental education
 - * Acquisition of skills to provide a foundation for acting as a trainer
- vii. Effective communication
- * Appropriate skills in written, oral and non-verbal communication
 - * Appropriate skills in negotiation and influencing people
 - * Appropriate counselling and listening skills
 - * Media skills (TV/radio/press)
- viii. Management - managing change, people, resources, time and support
- * Understanding principles of management as applied within the NHS
 - * Effective and efficient management of individual's time
 - * Leadership skills and problem solving
 - * Appropriate skills in planning and organisational skills
 - * Skills in conflict management and management of change

5. Completion of Training

On completion of the training programme and satisfactory structured assessments throughout the training the trainee must pass the Intercollegiate Specialty Fellowship Examination (ISFE) in dental public health prior to the recommendation for the award of a CCST in dental public health.

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sac/dph/general/curriculum.doc