

# An exciting field of dentistry

**Emma Male** considers the benefits of undertaking the NEBDN Certificate in Dental Implant Nursing

Dental implantology has become a routine treatment option for replacing teeth. Patients now often receive dental implant treatment in the same practice as their general dental care.

More and more practices and clinicians are placing implants. This requires dental nurses to be able to assist both the patient and the clinician. The National Examining Board for Dental Nurses now offers a postgraduate qualification in Dental Implant Nursing. This qualification gives dental nurses the skills and knowledge to be able to competently and confidently assist with dental implant procedures through the assessment, planning, surgical, restorative and maintenance stages.

Dental training centres across the UK, like the SmileWisdom Academy of Dentistry and Dental Nursing in London at the BDA, offer the NEBDN Certificate in Implant nursing for registered dental nurses.

## Responsibilities of the dental implant nurse

Dental implant nursing is an exciting field of dentistry and is an advanced, specialised skill. The very nature of the dental implant nurse's role means that it is more of an active and varied role in assisting the patient and clinician during dental procedures.



**Emma Male** is a CPD trainer and locum practice manager at Elite Dental Nursing and Survive Alive Ltd. She has worked in dentistry since 2003, as an orthodontic dental nurse, dental implant nurse, practice manager, tutor and CPD trainer. Emma provides in-house decontamination lead and medical emergency training through Elite Dental Nursing in association with Survive Alive Ltd and also works as part of the tutoring team at Smile Wisdom Academy of Dentistry and Dental Nursing.



Taking a team-led approach to dental implantology means more accountability and responsibility for the dental nurse. Assisting and coordinating the provision of dental implant treatment through the assessment, planning, surgical, restorative and maintenance stages is an advanced specialised skill and requires an increased knowledge to suit. Thus, a qualification for dental nurses in this field is a significant advantage to the dental team and patients alike.

Dental implantology, in comparison to general dentistry, can often mean more complex procedures and appointments, which require a higher degree of organisation, communication and planning.

For example the team may coordinate a higher volume of lab work, so more communication with the dental technician is required.

The dental team, including dental implant nurses, may also require a more in depth and varied knowledge and skill set in but not limited to the following:

- Record keeping
- Dental anatomy
- Dento-legal matters
- Aseptic techniques
- Clinical photography

- Impression-taking technique
- Communication
- Hard and soft tissue management
- Radiography
- Oral health instruction and maintenance
- Temporary and permanent restorations and prosthetics
- Medical and social history in relation to provision of dental implants
- Surgical techniques
- Cross-infection control
- Treatment coordinating
- Equipment, instrument and component identification and maintenance.

So, what are the benefits of undertaking a qualification in dental implant nursing? As well as gaining competence and confidence to be able to carry out the role as outlined above, a postgraduate qualification in dental implant nursing can also provide the following:

**■ Employability and credibility for the dental nurse** The NEBDN Certificate in Dental Implant Nursing is recognised both nationally and internationally by prospective employers. As implantology becomes an increasingly common and routine treatment option, a qualification in this field for dental nurses is more often required or desired by dental employers and those dental nurses

holding the qualification may enjoy a boost to their credibility giving more of a choice of employment opportunities.

■ **Financial benefits** To reflect their extra responsibilities and credibility, dental implant nurses holding the NEBDN Certificate in Dental Implant Nursing qualification can typically enjoy a higher income than those working solely in general dentistry.

■ **Job satisfaction** With a deeper understanding of the theories and methodology behind dental implants, a dental nurse has more meaningful involvement and interest in dental implant nursing, which can increase job satisfaction.

■ **Networking** By attending course lectures, students will also meet like-minded, supportive peers and, therefore, potentially extend their professional network.

### Aim of the qualification

The NEBDN states: 'The aim of the qualification is to provide you with:

- A standardised and quality assured learning experience with one of our accredited course providers
- An independent and objective assessment of knowledge
- A portfolio of evidence of practical experience in the form of a detailed Record of Competence
- The opportunity to gain a nationally respected qualification in this complex and evolving field of dentistry.'

### Enrolment criteria

The SmileWisdom Academy NEBDN accredited course is suitable for qualified dental nurses who currently assist, or shortly will be assisting, in the field of dental Implantology. To enrol in the course students will need:

- To be registered as a dental care professional with either the General Dental Council or the Irish Dental Council
- Have sufficient written and spoken English language skills
- To be able to access and assist in dental implant procedures required and to be able to carry out the Record of Competence (RoC) in the dental practice
- To have a supportive employer to supervise your Record of Competence (RoC) completion
- To have a valid first aid/basic life support (BLS) certificate of completion
- To be self motivated.

### Course delivery and overview

The SmileWisdom course is delivered in line with NEBDN standards, ensuring all students are fully supported and prepared for assisting with Implants in the dental practice. This is done by providing face-to-face lectures, providing a high standard of tutor support by qualified and experienced dental care professionals and also by building evidence of students' skills and abilities by way of the Record of Competence before students sit the examination to complete the qualification.

### Record of Competence

A work-based Record of Competence (RoC) must be carried out by the student, which consists of four sections:

- Practical Competence Assessment Sheets (PCAS)
- Case studies
- Directly Observed Clinical Skills (DOCS) assessments

■ Supplementary outcomes.

Once the ROC is completed, entry to the examination is required.

### Examination

The NEBDN Certificate in Dental Implant Nursing Qualification is held twice a year (in March and September) and consists of a 90-minute written examination in two parts:

- Part A – 50 multiple choice questions (MCQ)
- Part B – 30 extended matching questions (EMQ).

Once the student has satisfactorily completed the Record of Competence, and passed the examination, then they are awarded the NEBDN Certificate in Dental Implant Nursing.

### Reference

1. <https://www.nebdn.org/certificate-dental-implant-nursing> – NEBDN 2019

### The NEBDN

Established in 1943, the National Examining Board for Dental Nurses (NEBDN) has been providing the most recognised dental nursing qualifications for decades. It works closely with course providers to ensure a high standard of teaching and support throughout each course via its accreditation processes.



### Is this your next step...?

The SmileWisdom Academy of Dental Nursing and Dentistry is run solely by dental professionals for dental professionals, providing tuition and training facilities right in the heart of London. In fact, Smile Wisdom is based at the British Dental Association, 64 Wimple Street, located in the West End of London, near Bond Street and Oxford Circus Tube stations. The SmileWisdom Advisory Board is composed of experienced registered dental specialists, who very often will run a course as they simply enjoy dental coaching, teaching and lecturing. The next SmileWisdom NEBDN Certificate in Dental Implant Nursing starts on 4 September 2019. If you are interested in gaining the NEBDN certificate in dental implant nursing, details of the qualification can be found on the NEBDN website at [www.nebdn.org/certificate-dental-implant-nursing](http://www.nebdn.org/certificate-dental-implant-nursing). If you would like to talk to SmileWisdom about their NEBDN certificate in dental implant nursing, call **020 7205 2299** or email [training@smilewisdom.co.uk](mailto:training@smilewisdom.co.uk)

