OH8 Provide chairside support during the extraction of teeth and minor oral surgery

About this workforce competence

This workforce competence is intended for those who provide close support during the extraction of erupted teeth, the extraction of unerupted teeth or roots, and bone removal. You will need to ensure that the patient is properly prepared for the procedure and monitor them at all stages of the treatment, reporting any problems or concerns to the operator. You will also need to anticipate the operator's requirements to ensure that there is no unnecessary delay during the procedure. Managing the control of cross-infection is also a key requirement. You will need to know about the different types of extraction and minor surgical procedures including the reasons for carrying them out, and the instruments, materials, equipment and medicaments involved.

Links

This workforce competence has indicative links with the following dimensions and levels within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: Health and wellbeing HWB7: Interventions and treatments
Level 2:

Searchable key words

Chairside support, extraction of teeth, minor oral surgery, oral health, dental

Origin

This workforce competence has been developed by Skills for Health.

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Glossary

This section provides explanations and definitions of the terms used in this workforce competence. In competences, it is quite common to find words or phrases used which you will be familiar with, but which, in the detail of the competence, may be used in a very particular way.

Additional protective equipment	includes: types of personal protective equipment such as visors, protective eyewear and radiation protective equipment
Contaminated	includes items contaminated with body fluids, chemicals. Any pack/item opened and not used should be treated as contaminated
Personal protective clothing	includes items such as plastic aprons, gloves - both clean and sterile, eyewear, footwear, dresses, trousers and shirts and gowns. These may be single use disposable clothing or reusable clothing

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Scope

This section provides guidance on possible areas to be covered in this workforce competence.

Charts and records	include: a) paper based b) electronic c) dental images
Equipment, instruments, materials and medicaments	Include: a) topical anaesthetic, local anaesthetic equipment – appropriate syringe, needle and LA cartridge b) Luxators and/or elevators e.g. Couplands, Warwick James or Cryers c) Forceps d) Surgical extraction equipment e.g. scalpel, periosteal elevator, cheek retractor, tongue retractor, spencer wells, suture, suture holder, dissecting forceps, scissors, surgical suction tip, surgical handpiece and burs or surgical mallet and chisel. e) Irrigation, e.g. saline f) Haemostatic medicaments – gelatine sponges, oxidised cellulose
Patients	Include: a) adults b) children c) older people d) those with special needs.
Treatment	extraction of teeth and minor oral surgery includes: a) extraction of erupted teeth (deciduous and permanent) b) extraction of unerupted teeth or roots c) bone removal d) raising mucoperiosteal flaps
Standard precautions and health and safety measures	a series of interventions which will minimise or prevent infection and cross infection, including: a) hand washing/cleansing before during and after the activity b) the use of **personal protective clothing** and **additional**

protective equipment when appropriate

it also includes:

c) handling **contaminated** items

d) disposing of waste

e) safe moving and handling techniques

f) untoward incident procedures

g) safe handling of medicaments

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Performance criteria

You need to:

1 retrieve and make available the correct **patient**'s **charts, records and images** and identify correctly the planned **treatment**

2 check with the patient that they have followed the prescribed pre-treatment instructions and report any non-compliance promptly to the appropriate member of the team

3 apply **standard precautions for infection control** and take other appropriate **health and safety measures**

4 provide appropriate support during the administration of local or regional analgesia

5 anticipate, select and arrange the **equipment, instruments, materials and medicaments** in their most likely order of use and easy reach of the chairside in a manner that minimises the possibility of damage and cross-infection

6 suitably protect the patient's soft tissues using instruments and materials appropriate to the procedure, irrigate and aspirate the treatment area and maintain a clear field of operation

7 continuously monitor the patient, identify any complications and take the necessary actions without delay

8 assist the operator in the placement and cutting of sutures (if used), record the sutures correctly and prepare an appropriate post-operative dressing

9 provide post-operative instructions or information to the patient on care of the mouth, post-extraction haemorrhage, suture removal (if required), and access to emergency care and advice

10 support the patient appropriately throughout and confirm with the operator that the patient is fit to leave the surgery prior to them doing so

11 ensure that all charts and records are complete, accurate, and legible following the procedure

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to apply:

Anatomy and physiology

K1. factual knowledge of the structures of the skull and oral cavity

K2. factual knowledge of nerve and blood supply to teeth and gingiva

K3. factual knowledge of morphology of teeth and roots of teeth

K4. factual knowledge of primary and secondary dentition and the dates of eruption

Equipment, instruments, materials and medicaments

K5. a working knowledge of the equipment, instruments, materials and medicaments which are used in the following procedures:

a) extraction of erupted teeth

b) extraction unerupted teeth and roots

including local and regional anaesthesia

K6. a working knowledge of the purpose and correct methods of preparing and handling the range of equipment, instruments, materials and medicaments

K7. a working knowledge of the relationship of the equipment, instruments, materials and medicaments to the different procedures and the order in which they are likely to be used in each procedure

Extractions

K8. a working knowledge of the different forms of pain and anxiety control that are available in dentistry (including conscious sedation)

K9. factual knowledge of the reasons why the extraction of teeth may be necessary

K10. factual knowledge of the purpose of removing roots and unerupted teeth, the different forms which this may take and its relationship to other forms of dental treatment

K11. a working knowledge of the purpose and reasons for raising mucoperiosteal flaps and the dental nurse's role in providing chairside support for this procedure

K12. a working knowledge of the purpose and reason for tooth sectioning or bone removal and the dental nurse's role in providing chairside support for this procedure

K13. a working knowledge of the potential risks and complications that may arise during and after extractions (including nerve damage, haemorrhage, oral antral fistulas, equipment failure

Health and safety and infection control

K14. a working knowledge of standard precautions and quality standards of infection control, and the worker's role in maintaining them

K15. a working knowledge of what is and is not a sterile field and how the correct level of cleanliness may be maintained for the patient's condition, the treatment and the setting

K16. a working knowledge of legislation and practice guidelines related to health and safety and control of infection and how these affect the worker's actions (including COSHH and Health and Safety at Work Act)

Providing close support and assistance to the oral health care team

K17. a working knowledge of the ergonomics of dental practice (eg seating, positioning of the patient and team, instrument passing, suction tip placement)

K18. a working knowledge of methods of working which will complement the work of the operator and the reasons for this

K19. a working knowledge of the function, use and maintenance of suction equipment and aspirators

K20. a working knowledge of methods of protecting and retracting the soft tissues

K21. a working knowledge of methods of aspirating during treatment

K22. a working knowledge of methods of facilitating a clear view of the treatment area for the operator and the consequences of doing this incorrectly (such as tissue damage)

K23. a working knowledge of your role in assisting haemostasis, including assisting the placement and cutting of sutures, preparing packs

K24. a working knowledge of methods of monitoring the patient

K25. a working knowledge of how to recognise and respond to actual or potential emergencies

K26. factual understanding of why the patient should be confirmed as fit prior to leaving the surgery

Communication

K27. a working knowledge of methods of communicating information clearly and effectively

K28. a working knowledge of methods of modifying information and communication methods for different individuals including patients from different social and ethnic backgrounds, children (including those with special needs), and the elderly

Records

K29. a working knowledge of the different types of records used in the organisation (including medical history, personal details, dental charts, radiographs/photographs and study models for assessment and treatment planning) and their purpose

K30. in-depth understanding of confidentiality in relation to patient records