

Dental Chairside Assistant

Preamble

The detailed definition of the DCA Profile should help to align the post of DCA to the European Qualification Framework (EQF) to be introduced in 2012. Each country has to make a proposal on how to develop this concept, which contains the minimum criteria for a qualified DCA. The dental profession is absolutely against any kind of compulsory standardization.

The dental team, led by the dentist, is essential in the prevention of oral diseases and in ensuring the best possible quality of oral health care. All members of the dental team shall have the education and training appropriate to their areas of responsibility and be legally allowed to provide dental care always under the supervision and responsibility of a dentist. Roles and responsibilities of all team members should be specified and defined by national regulatory bodies and/or professional dental organizations.

All members of the dental team may only use those dental qualifications or titles which have been approved by the competent dental authority in that country (legislation in the awarding country, place of work, country where they practise).

The auxiliaries in the dental team are allowed to:

- carry out only the delegated tasks for which he/she is duly and legally qualified or trained pursuant to the provisions of the respective country
- carry out these tasks solely under the supervision of a dentist who shall be present in the dental practice
- refer back to the dentist any situation or task which is outside the competence and training of the team member
- accept and follow all directions and specifications provided by the dentist including the protection of all patients' data
- be trained on rules and code of behaviour towards the patients and within the dental team.

The dental team should:

- practise according to evidence-based dentistry and in compliance with humanitarian principles
- safeguard the oral health of patients irrespective of their individual status
- prevent illegal dentistry practices in terms of ethics and law.

The dental profession holds the view that a dental chairside assistant must have undergone basic training to a common agreed level and it will therefore work on an accredited training profile for the DCA.

The minimum training period, training venue and tasks should be defined and laid down.

For this reason, the European dental organizations will submit this DCA profile to its General Assembly on 15-16 April 2011 and forward it to the European legislative competent authorities to be applied in the Member States.

Dental Chairside Assistant Professional Profile

The dental chairside assistant who is trained and examined according to the following professional profile works in private and public dental practices only in collaboration with the dentist. The qualified dental chairside assistant supports the dentist in administrative tasks and preparation, execution and follow-up of dental treatment.

DCA never be allowed to work in the mouth of the patient.

During the training, the qualified DCA shall acquire skills and knowledge in the following fields which are listed in the annex:

- Biomedical Sciences, Oral Biology and Diseases
- First Aid and Medical Emergencies
- Dental Biomaterials Science
- Dental Radiography
- Behavioural Sciences, Communication Skills and Health Informatics
- Law, Ethics and Professionalism
- Pain and Anxiety Control
- Chairside Support
- Human Diseases
- Health, Safety and Infection Control
- Patient Information
- Administration

1. Trainee Admission

Compulsory school education: secondary school - i.e. the school leaver has attended school for 9-10 years. A DCA trainee shall be at least 15 years old.

2. Minimum Training Requirements

3 years' practical training at an accredited institution of education and/or in a registered dental surgery; during the 3-year training at least 500 hours of theory must be completed at an accredited school;

The training establishments shall guarantee the following minimal requirements:

Training centres:

- training centres accredited by the competent regulatory authority in the country

Trainer qualification:

- tutors: teaching qualification in the field of dentistry, sufficient professional experience and teaching experience in the field of dentistry

Essential facilities and equipment:

- room for theory lessons and teaching materials in conformity with current legislation
- training opportunities with the basic equipment of a dental surgery

3. Final Examination

Admission to the final examination is subject to the positive presentation of the candidate and is approved by the organizing body on the basis of tests and internal admission examinations.

The qualification issued by the statutory testing body is awarded only after a practical exercise and a final examination in front of a committee composed of the competent authorities and representatives of national dental associations.

4. Acquired Rights/Transitional Conditions

All Dental Chairsides Assistants who, up until the coming into force of this profile, have been working for a period of at least two years in public or private dental practices carrying out the appropriate tasks of a DCA and can provide an officially certified proof of employment have the right to have their total employment period in dental practices recognized as accredited prior learning.

5. Continuing Education

A DCA is expected to attend continuing education courses in line with the specific requirements of the country concerned.

6. Register/Regulatory Authority

This is not compulsory.