

CHAPTER 1

What is dental foundation training?

Dental foundation training is a year when dental graduates across the United Kingdom embark on a period of relevant employment general dental practitioners under a contract of service by approved educational supervisors to provide a wide range of dental care and treatment. The successful completion of the DF1 year is mandatory for those who want to work in the NHS as part of their future dental career. Dental foundation training (DF1) introduces new graduates to general practice and gives them a protected environment in which to work and enhance the basic dental skills achieved through their BDS degree under the supervision of an educational supervisor practitioner. The educational supervisor's role is to help and support the dental foundation trainee in all aspects of employment and provide continuous academic development through tutorials. The DF1 trainees also attend weekly study days outside of their general practice with the aim and objective of enhancing clinical and administrative competence and promoting high standards through relevant postgraduate training. The following competencies are included within the DFT curricula:

- to enable the dental practitioner to practise and improve dental practitioner's skills;
- to introduce the dental practitioner to all aspects of dental practice in primary care;
- to identify the dental practitioner's personal strengths and weaknesses and balance them through a planned programme of training;
- to promote oral health and the quality of dental care for patients;
- to develop and implement peer- and self-review and promote awareness of the need for professional education, training and audit as a continuing process;
- to demonstrate that the dental practitioner is working within the General Dental Council's (GDC's) standard guidelines.

Excerpts from the National Health Service (Performers Lists) (England) Regulations 2013, found at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/335/pdfs/ukxi_20130335_en.pdf (accessed 24 February 2016).

