# Job Description

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| 1. **JOB IDENTIFICATION**
 | Job Title | Dental Therapist |
| Department(s)/Location | Public Dental Service, Tayside |
| Number of Job Holders | 5 |
| CAJE | SC06 4528 |
| JOB PURPOSEThe purpose of the job is to fulfil the full range of activities deemed appropriate for a therapist/hygienist:* To provide dentistry for adults and children within GDC Scope of Practice and NHS terms and conditions.
* To promote and provide oral health education to individual patients and groups.
* To participate in epidemiological programmes.
* To support teaching.
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| ORGANISATIONAL POSITION Clinical Dental Director Deputy Clinical DirectorSenior Dental Officer OHITClinical TeamTechniciansAdmin TeamSenior DN**Dental Therapist**DentistDeputy SDNDental Nurse |
| SCOPE AND RANGEResponsible for personally providing dental treatment to a wide variety of patients. This service includes patients referred by General Dental Practitioners.Oral health education and promotion to individuals and groups.Participation in dental epidemiological and screening programmes.Direct supervision of qualified and trainee dental nurses and undergraduate dental therapists in clinical situations. |
| 1. **MAIN DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES**

The main duties are clinical treatment, epidemiology and health promotion.**Clinical** Clinical treatment is carried out in accordance with the GDC Scope of Practice. Most patients are treated under GDS Terms and Conditions and the Statement of Dental Remuneration. This includes, but is not confined to, clinical prevention, restorative dentistry, exodontia of primary teeth, periodontology, radiography, administration of local anaesthetic and inhalation sedation.Care may be provided from clinics, mobile dental units or in domiciliary settings and the post holder must be prepared to drive a vehicle as instructed to meet the needs of the service. The PDS provides dental care in a number of institutional settings including HMP Perth, Secure Schools, Care Homes, Long Stay and Secure Hospitals etc. The postholder will be required to work in any or all of these locations depending on the needs of the service.**Health promotion**Includes chairside, individuals and groups.**Epidemiology**Includes Basic and Detailed NDIP annually and may include national (Scottish or UK) and research programmes on occasionSupervision and teaching of staff may include outreach teaching and acting as a vocational trainer for recent therapy/hygiene graduates, other hygiene/therapy staff, dental nurses etc. |
| 1. **COMMUNICATIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS**

**Forms of communication used:*** Written
* Oral
* Face to face
* Electronic
* Alternative and augmentative communication systems

**People communicated with:*** Patients (patients may have complex special care needs)
* Carers and parents
* Students
* Members of dental staff (Senior Dental Officers, Dental Officers, other therapists/hygienists/tutors etc)
* Members of support staff (dental nurses – senior, qualified, trainee)
* Members of administration staff (NHS Board)
* Other health and social care professionals (doctors, nurses, health visitors, speech therapists, child protection team etc)
* Undertake teaching to groups in the wider community, with the use of computer-aided presentations, visual aids, and practical demonstration.

**Clinical staff:*** The dental therapist/hygienist undertakes treatment under the prescription of a registered dentist within the Tayside PDS.
* Liaising with all grades of dentist with regard to combined treatment needs of patients.
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| 1. **KNOWLEDGE, TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED TO DO THE JOB**

**Qualifications:*** BSc in Oral Health Sciences or equivalent
* Statutory registration as therapist with GDC

**Knowledge:*** Significant evidence of Continuing Professional Development, includingknowledge of any advances in extended duties (as laid down by the General Dental Council), clinical techniques and treatments.
* COSHH guidelines
* Ionising radiation guidelines
* Knowledge of computer hardware and software required, including word processing, to develop and deliver computer-aided presentations.
* Knowledge of internet and e-mail required for regular research of clinical knowledge and techniques.
* Statutory training, including; moving and handling, infection control and management of medical emergencies.
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| 1. **SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT**

**Systems*** Approved Patient Management Systems (e.g. R4)
* NHS Tayside complaints protocol
* Inspection/screening databases
* Reporting faulty equipment
* Incident reporting (e.g. DATIX)
* e-Expenses
* e-learning
* Email (e.g. NHS net)
* GP17/EDI process
* Records management in accordance with NHS Tayside protocols and procedures
* Reporting faulty equipment
* Appraisal system (e.g. TURAS)

**Equipment*** Dedicated dental equipment
* Bariatric bench and wheelchair platform
* PC/laptop and peripherals
* Radiographic equipment
* Domiciliary and portable dental equipment
* Mobile Dental Unit
* Medical emergency equipment
* Specialised hand instruments
* Other medical devices
* Ability to travel as required.

Specialised hand instruments required for a range of clinical procedures and operations undertaken in the dental surgery e.g. clinical prevention, restorative dentistry, exodontia of primary teeth, periodontology, radiography, administration of local anaesthetic andinhalation sedation.**Responsibility for Records Management**All records created in the course of the business of NHS Tayside are corporate records and are public records under the terms of the Public Records (Scotland) Act 2011. This includes email messages and other electronic records. It is your responsibility to ensure that you keep appropriate records of your work in NHS Tayside and manage those records in keeping with the NHS Tayside Records Management Policy and with any guidance produced by NHS Tayside specific to your employment. |
| 1. **PHYSICAL DEMANDS OF THE JOB**

**Physical*** Highly developed physical and precision skills are required to safely use instruments and equipment in a patient’s mouth correctly, without causing soft tissue damage.
* Walking, sitting or standing for long periods of time in uncomfortable and difficult positions.
* Carrying and transporting heavy equipment (domiciliary kits, emergency equipment including oxygen cylinders)
* Mobile Dental X-Ray unit.
* Setting up mobile dental units.
* Keyboard skills.
* Transferring of patients with mobility problems.
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| 1. **DECISIONS AND JUDGEMENTS**
* Work to a treatment plan by a registered dentist, however work autonomously within that. Liaise with dentists if a change of treatment is required.
* Judgments regarding the type, quality, quantity and frequency of oral care to patients.
* Recognition, decision making and appropriate treatment of oral manifestations of systemic disease.
* Radiology:
* Identifying and interpreting pathological features on radiographs.
* Decisions/judgments re hazards and regulation of ionising radiation including radiation protection and dose reduction.
* Assessment of image quality.
* Decision making regarding alternative imaging.
* Prompt identification, decision making and treatment regarding the immediate management of medical emergencies.
* Responsible for day-to-day management of own clinic, including appointment times.
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| 1. **MOST CHALLENGING/DIFFICULT PARTS OF THE JOB**

**Working within a changing environment.*** Working with patients with complex needs.
* Prioritising workload.
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