



Modernisation of the Recognition of Professional Qualification Directive Directive 2005/36/EC

Competences of dental practitioners

The dentist is the primary provider of oral healthcare and, upon possession of the necessary professional qualifications, shall be able to provide patient-centred holistic care and evidence-based dentistry independently and must possess a wide range of skills in order to provide the highest possible quality of patient care at all times, promoting and improving the oral health of individuals, families and groups in the community.

Competence Domain I: Professionalism, Ethics and Communication

After graduating from basic dental training, a dentist must be **competent to**:

1. demonstrate a contemporary knowledge of dentistry and understanding for the evidence-based dentistry that underpins it and have a scientific approach, understanding of behavioural science and ethics integrated with his/her clinical ability ;
2. demonstrate an empathic caring behaviour towards patients at all stage of their lives and recognize patients' rights, particularly with regard to confidentiality and informed consent;
3. be an effective leader of the dental team and have the ability to apply organisational, managerial, financial, administrative and leadership skills to the functioning of the dental practice and to the treatment of patients;
4. have a thorough understanding of the moral and ethical responsibilities and knowledge of contemporary laws, involved in the provision of care to individual patients, to populations and communities; communicate effectively with patients, their relatives, colleagues, the dental team and other health professionals involved in the care of the patient and help the incompetent, impaired or unethical colleague and their patients;
5. identify his/her Continuing Professional Development needs to ensure a continuing high level of clinical performance for their entire professional career.
6. manage and maintain a safe working environment with all members of the dental team.

Competence Domain II: Knowledge Base and Information Literacy

After graduating from basic dental training, a dentist must be **competent at**:

1. applying knowledge and understanding of the biological, biomedical, behavioural, technical and clinical sciences in order to recognize the difference between normal and pathological conditions/disorders relevant to clinical dental practice;
2. understanding of interactions between oral health and general health status, with the aim to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life;
3. acquiring appropriate information from libraries and databases; and
4. applying it in a critical, scientific and effective manner for the care of patients.



Competence Domain III: Clinical Examination, Diagnosis and Treatment Planning

After graduating from basic dental training, a dentist must be **competent at**:

1. obtaining and recording a comprehensive history of the patient's medical, oral and dental state including psychological and social information;
2. performing an appropriate physical examination; interpreting the findings and organizing appropriate further investigations including imaging and biopsies, clinical reasoning and clinical decision-making, in order to develop a differential, provisional or definitive diagnosis by interpreting and correlating findings from the history, clinical and radiographic examination and other diagnostic tests, taking into account the social and cultural background of the patient;
3. formulating, recording and communicating a diagnosis and comprehensive treatment plan which meets the needs and chief complaints of the patient;
4. referring those patients that are beyond their skills for an appropriate dental and medical specialist opinion and/or treatment and refer patients with signs of non-accidental injury to appropriate services.

Competence Domain IV: Therapy and Maintaining Oral Health

After graduating from basic dental training, a dentist must be **competent at**:

1. planning, managing and performing in an interdisciplinary manner, preventive, restorative, prosthetic and minor surgical procedures to prevent hard and soft tissue disease and to promote oral health with acceptable form, function and aesthetics;
2. diagnosing developmental or acquired dento-alveolar, growth-related and functional abnormalities of the primary, mixed and permanent dentition, managing the problems of the primary, mixed and early permanent dentition where interceptive treatment is indicative and have knowledge of the common orthodontic/maxillofacial procedures involved;
3. understanding surgical and non-surgical aspects of the management of maxillofacial trauma;
4. identifying and managing dental emergencies including those of pulpal, periodontal or traumatic origin, and identifying and promptly referring dental or medical emergencies, which are beyond the scope of management by a general dentist;
5. counselling patients regarding the nature and severity of non-life-threatening oral mucosal diseases and disorders, referring the patient with life-threatening oral mucosal diseases including oral cancer to secondary (tertiary) medical care;
6. applying and/or prescribing appropriate pharmaceutical agents and anaesthesia techniques to support pre- and post-surgical treatment;
7. identifying and managing dental fear and anxiety, employing appropriate techniques and pharmaceutical agents and referring to psychological services where appropriate.
8. managing oro-facial pain, including TMJ disorders, discomfort and psychological distress and referring the patient to relevant specialist if needed;
9. carrying out Basic Life Support & Defibrillation for cardiac arrest and immediate appropriate management of all other emergencies that may occur in the course of dental practice;
10. assessing quality and correcting all processes related to clinical performance, including all records, restorative, orthodontic and prosthetic appliances and materials.



Competence Domain V: Prevention and Oral Health Promotion

After graduating from basic dental training, a dentist must be competent at:

1. developing comprehensive prevention programmes for individuals, families and groups in the community;
2. providing dietary counselling and nutritional education relevant and supportive to oral and general health, including for example brief interventions and counselling on the effects of tobacco, alcohol and drugs;
3. educating patients emphasizing current concepts of prevention and risk assessment of oral and dental diseases, in order to maintain general and oral health as well as to improve the quality of life;
4. developing and implementing a dental recall system for monitoring the results of every therapeutic intervention and reinforcing good practices on maintaining good oral health to all patients.

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This working document was developed by the CED-ADEE joint Task Force to contribute to the update of the Professional Qualifications Directive (2005/36/EC as amended by 2013/55/EU). It represents a joint proposal of both organisations in relation to this specific issue. The individual positions of each organisation on educational competences of European dental graduates are expressed through their individual documents: 1) ADEE's *"Profile and Competences of the Graduation European Dentist (2010)"* and 2) *"CED Resolution on Competences required for the Practice of Dentistry in the European Union (2009)"*.