

A Career in Community Dentistry in the Midlands & East



Developing people
for health and
healthcare



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What is Community and Special Care Dentistry

- Salaried dentists
- Dentists must be on Performer List
- Employed by NHS Trusts / Health Boards and Social Enterprises
- Community Dental Service
- Special Care Dental Service
- Dental Access Centres
- Currently work under NHS contract

What is Community and Special Care Dentistry

Community Dental Services (CDS) provide treatment for people who may not otherwise seek or receive dental care, such as people with learning disabilities, elderly housebound people, people with mental or physical health problems or other disabling conditions which prevent them from visiting a dentist in the high street.



Why choose this specialty?

- Wide variety of patients
- Different challenges to practice
- Develop clinical skills e.g. sedation, domiciliary care, paediatric dentistry, special care, patient management skills, dental general anaesthesia
- Senior Clinicians for guidance
- Well trained supporting staff
- Multi-disciplinary care
- Stable salary
- Career progression
- Paid holidays, study leave
- NHS pension

Future challenges

- ▶ Development of Special Care Consultant led service in all areas
- ▶ Development of more special care training posts
- ▶ Increasing number of vulnerable patients due to aging population with increased life expectancy
- ▶ Complex treatment for older adults who are becoming more medically compromised
- ▶ Competition for resources within the NHS
- ▶ Contract currency varies across the UK – UDAs, sessions, procedures, contacts etc

Typical Day

A day in the life...

- Start work around 8.30am, as early as 7.00am for GA work
- Variety of work depending on day and seniority
 - treatment in clinic, mobile surgery, domiciliary, hospital, Dental Access Centre
 - treatment of complex patients on referral
 - liaison with schools, nurseries, nursing homes, learning disability support workers, support groups for marginalised and disadvantaged, medical colleagues
 - epidemiology work
 - treatment of adults and children, including those with special needs and dental pain
 - IV or Inhalation Sedation work
 - Dental GAs for children and vulnerable adults – including comprehensive care and/or exodontia
 - Multidisciplinary Team/Best Interest meetings for complex patients

Personal Qualities for this career

- **Excellent communication skills**
- **Good interpersonal skills**
- **Leadership**
- **Resilience**
- **Practical skills**
- **Life long learner**
- In line with all specialities, trainees need to be **reliable, self-motivated, punctual, flexible and good team players**

Training Pathway

- 5 year university degree
- 1 year dental foundation training leading to NHS performer number
- Possibly Dental Core Training
- CDS post
- Post graduate qualification e.g. MJDF, Postgrad Certificate, Diploma and/or Masters in SCD, Paediatric Dentistry, Oral Surgery etc
- Further Specialist training in an area of interest
- Career progression
 - Band A Dentist
 - Band B Senior Dentist
 - Band C Specialist (Paediatrics, SCD, Oral Surgery)/Band C Managerial
 - Consultant – mainly Special Care and Paediatric Dentistry

Requirements During Training

- No specific requirements as there is no formal training course for community services
- A post graduate qualification is often required for career progression
- Band C/Consultant posts following Specialty training
- Opportunities for training within the service by senior colleagues, Specialists or Consultants
- Opportunities for Level 2 training

Recruitment

- CDS posts advertised in BDJ and/or NHS Jobs
- Recruitment for career roles in individual employing organisations
- Part time and full time roles normally available
- Some dentists combine CDS with GDS
- Some GDS dentists provide sessional support for CDS with out of hours, Dental Access and Level 2 work

Why train in the M&E?

- Largest region in the country
- Diverse area resulting in wide range of challenges.
- Mix of small clinics, larger clinics, hospital based work, rural and urban locations
- Excellent hospital based GA provision
- Broad training and excellent opportunities.



Demonstrating commitment to Specialty

- Previous work experience/interest in CDS
- Subscription to relevant societies
- Experience with disadvantaged groups
- Relevant background reading
- Relevant audit/peer review

Where to go for more information...

- [NHS health careers](#)
- www.bsdh.org
- www.gerodontology.com
- <https://www.theddu.com/guidance-and-advice/journals/april-2013/working-in-special-care-dentistry>
- <https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/09/guid-comms-spec-care-dentistry.pdf>
- <https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/primary-care/dental/dental-specialities/>