

Dental Specialty Fellowship Examinations

Dental Public Health Exam Syllabus

The exam syllabus is drafted based upon the curriculum [published by the GDC](#) as well as the [training syllabi](#) drafted by the Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) which includes elements for the exam as well as elements being covered in the workplace-based assessments.

The curriculum is drafted by the Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) and the GDC for use from September 2024.

On application to sit the examination, candidates will be asked to self-certify that have sufficient knowledge of the learning outcomes noted in this syllabus to attempt the examination.

1. Creating and Interpreting Population Health Data		Curriculum REF D5.1			
ES code	Trainees should be able to:	SAQ	pSO	uSO	mSO
1.1	Identify appropriate sources of data which inform on the health and wellbeing of populations.		X	X	
1.2	Show a critical approach to health services data, use and interpretation.	X	X	X	X
1.3	Develop, quality assure, analyse, and interpret data in line with best practice.		X	X	
1.4	Critically appraise, select, and then undertake an appropriate method of oral health needs assessment.	X	X	X	
1.5	Monitor and evaluate oral health inequalities.		X	X	
2. Assessing and Interpreting Risk and Effectiveness Evidence		Curriculum REF 5.2			
ES code	Trainees should be able to:	SAQ	pSO	uSO	mSO
2.1	Apply insights from multiple sources of information and data, including research, health surveillance, needs analysis, health economics, service monitoring, and evaluation.	X	X	X	X

2.2	Communicate evidence in a meaningful way for commissioners, policy makers, the public, and other stakeholders.	X	X	X	
2.3	Assimilate and interpret evidence to influence strategy and policy development.	X	X	X	
2.4	Provide strategic dental public advice to inform decision making for oral health improvement and service planning/innovation.	X	X	X	X
2.5	Give a clinical dental and public health perspective on population oral health measures and dental service planning, providing constructive challenge when required.	X	X	X	X
3. Promoting and Improving Health through Policy		Curriculum REF D5.4			
<i>ES code</i>	<i>Trainees should be able to:</i>	SAQ	pSO	uSO	mSO
3.1	Demonstrate knowledge of appropriate local, regional, national and global policies and relevant legislation.		X	X	X
3.2	Demonstrate understanding of the factors considered in decision-making processes within relevant organisations and their financial and planning cycles, including priorities and opportunities to influence.		X	X	X
3.3	Demonstrate understanding of the key networks across the health and social care system, and the specialty's role and relationship to them.		X	X	X
4. Addressing Health Inequalities		Curriculum REF D5.5			
<i>ES code</i>	<i>Trainees should be able to:</i>	SAQ	pSO	uSO	mSO
4.1	Advise on and implement effective and equitable approaches to addressing oral health inequalities.		X	X	X
4.2	Design, monitor, and evaluate programmes and services to improve oral health and reduce inequalities.		X	X	
4.3	Understand the wider determinants and factors influencing behaviours and apply this knowledge to oral health improvement programmes.		X	X	
4.4	Identify opportunities and advocating for action to bring about oral health improvement.		X	X	X
4.5	Demonstrate a pragmatic approach in the adoption of the evidence base.		X	X	

5. Managing Risk in the Dental Setting		Curriculum REF D5.7			
<i>ES code</i>	<i>Trainees should be able to:</i>	SAQ	pSO	uSO	mSO
5.1	Apply current regulation, guidance, and best practice in managing common risks across dental services.		X	X	X
5.2	Identify and work with appropriate partners in the management of risk.		X	X	X
5.3	Demonstrate collaborative working with other key stakeholders to manage health protection or patient safety issues in dental settings.		X	X	X
5.4	Provide appropriate clinical and dental public health advice to facilitate decision-making relating to patient and public safety in dental settings.		X	X	X
5.5	Support the response to national and global threats to public health as part of the public health workforce.		X	X	X
6. Developing and Monitoring Quality and Outcomes		Curriculum REF D5.7			
<i>ES code</i>	<i>Trainees should be able to:</i>	SAQ	pSO	uSO	mSO
6.1	Advise on workforce planning, including workforce development and health and wellbeing of the workforce.		X	X	X
6.2	Advise on patient, professional, and public engagement and involvement in service development and improvement.		X	X	X
6.3	Advise on all stages of the commissioning/planning cycle, including providing advice relating to levels of need and appropriate service requirements.		X	X	X
6.4	Advise on all stages of the commissioning/planning cycle, including advising on quality assurance processes and quality and outcome measures for dental services and oral health improvement services.		X	X	X
6.5	Advise on all stages of the commissioning/planning cycle, including supporting the procurement of dental and oral health improvement services.		X	X	X
6.6	Develop or advise on service specifications.		X	X	X
6.7	Provide advice on the prevention and management of poor quality or safety of clinical services.		X	X	X

6.8	Design and undertake review, monitoring, and evaluation of programmes and services to ensure acceptability, accessibility, affordability, effectiveness, efficiency, and equity.		X	X	
6.9	Advise on the management and improvement of dental contract/services performance.		X	X	X
6.10	Influence commissioning/planning processes to ensure evidence-based commissioning, transparency, and value.				X
6.11	Manage/challenge conflicts of interests appropriately.		X	X	X
6.12	Advise on reducing inequalities in access to services and programmes and the outcomes of these.		X	X	X

Version control

Version	Date	Changes made
1.0	9 November 2025	Document approved for publication (for use where traceability required to the training syllabus).
1.1	16 March 2026	Preface text added including noting source material for the syllabus.
1.2	8 April 2026	Minor formatting and branding updates, no content changes.