

Dental Specialty Fellowship Examinations

Oral Surgery 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. Basic Sciences		Curriculum REF 0	
ES code	Trainees should be able to:	SBA	SO
1.1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the anatomy and functions of the oral cavity, oropharynx, orofacial skeleton and musculature.	X	
1.2	Demonstrate understanding of the embryological development of the head and neck.	X	
1.3	Apply knowledge of anatomy to all stages of patient management relevant to oral surgery including assessment, image interpretation, surgical planning and procedures, risks and complications.	X	X
1.4	Demonstrate an understanding of general physiological principles and specific organ systems relevant to oral surgery care.	X	X
1.5	Demonstrate an understanding of general pathological principles related to oral surgery.	X	X
1.6	Demonstrate knowledge of the principles of infection control and prevention including knowledge of techniques to prevent transmission of infection.	X	X
1.7	Demonstrate knowledge of the general pathology of microbial disease and soft tissue infections including mechanisms of injury and systemic sepsis.	X	X
1.8	Demonstrate knowledge of hospital acquired infection, antibiotic governance/stewardship, and bacterial resistance.	X	X
1.9	Apply knowledge of the relevant guidelines/standards/classifications pertinent to oral surgery.	X	X

1.10	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles of diagnostic and interventional imaging, diathermy, LASER, cryotherapy, lithotripsy and piezo surgery and aspiration.	X	X
1.11	Describe and apply the basics of pharmacology of common drugs and therapeutic agents that patients will be prescribed and demonstrate knowledge of how to safely prescribe drugs in primary and secondary care environments.	X	X
1.12	Demonstrate knowledge of the pharmacological principles of general anaesthesia, local anaesthesia, and sedative drugs, and the recommended modification of common agents used for management of systemic diseases in the perioperative period.	X	X
1.13	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the pharmacological and radiological principles relevant to the treatment of malignancy, immunosuppression, medical emergencies and trauma.	X	X
1.14	Describe and apply the basics of pharmacology in relation to prescribing and pharmacovigilance.	X	X
2. General Clinical Skills		Curriculum REF 0	
<i>ES code</i>	<i>Trainees should be able to:</i>	SBA	SO
2.1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles underpinning holistic assessment of the patient requiring care who presents to an oral surgery or multidisciplinary clinic.	X	X
2.2	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles underpinning a thorough extra and intraoral examination, relevant to the condition the patient complained of/presented with.	X	X
2.3	Select appropriate investigations for the diagnosis and management of soft and hard tissue lesions and conditions, and oral mucosal, salivary and TMD disease.	X	X
2.4	Interpret CBCT scans, and plain film radiography of the jaws, maxillary antrum, TMJ and nasal area and understand the use of implant planning software.	X	X
2.5	Interpret imaging reports such as brain CT, MRI, and salivary gland imaging such as ultrasound, sialography, plain films and cross-sectional imaging.	X	X
2.6	Interpret results including histopathological reports, imaging reports, blood tests, microbiological reports and any other relevant diagnostic test report to plan patient care.	X	X
2.7	Provide evidence-based preventative oral healthcare advice.	X	X

2.8	Apply an understanding of the role of other specialties and healthcare teams in the management of patients presenting to an oral surgery or multidisciplinary clinic and know when to refer.	X	X
2.9	Formulate an appropriate treatment plan considering the patient's wishes, anxieties, and the risks and benefits of the treatment offered, and understand why and when to review a patient appropriately.	X	X
2.10	Discuss the clinical skills underpinning operative management of conditions common to oral surgery.	X	X
2.11	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of patients' levels of anxiety with regard to oral surgery care and treatment plan appropriately.	X	X
2.12	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles of the consent process.	X	X
2.13	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the risk factors for dental and oral diseases and systemic critical conditions, recognise high risk or red flag signs and demonstrate knowledge of when urgent intervention, appropriate management and onward referral is required.	X	X
3. Assessment, diagnosis and management of patients requiring dentoalveolar surgery		Curriculum REF SD:D1	
<i>ES code</i>	<i>Trainees should be able to:</i>	SBA	SO
3.1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the assessment, indications for, techniques, risks and complications associated with surgical management of teeth.	X	X
3.2	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the indications, techniques, risks and complications associated with managing impacted and supplemental teeth.	X	X
3.3	Suggest appropriate management for teeth, roots or dental implants that are displaced including those in the maxillary sinus, lingual pouch and infratemporal fossa.	X	X
3.4	Apply knowledge of the uses of temporary anchorage devices and their placement where necessary in collaboration with orthodontic practitioners.	X	X
3.5	Accurately diagnose oro-antral communications/fistulae.	X	X
3.6	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the assessment of teeth with periapical pathology.	X	X
3.7	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of indications for, techniques including materials used, risks and complications associated with managing teeth with periapical pathology.	X	X

3.8	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of biopsy techniques used on hard and soft tissues in and around the oral cavity including indications, risks and complications and the further management if required.	X	X
3.9	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the assessment, and diagnosis of cases requiring dental implants, and associated soft tissue, hard tissue and sinus augmentation.	X	X
3.10	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the management, placement, risks and complications and maintenance associated with the surgical care of patients requiring dental implants, and associated soft tissue, hard tissue and sinus augmentation.	X	X
3.11	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the assessment of cases requiring tooth removal.	X	X
3.12	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the assessment, indications for, techniques, risks and complications associated with tooth removal.	X	X
4. Assessment, diagnosis and management of patients with hard or soft tissue trauma		Curriculum REF SD:D2	
<i>ES code</i>	<i>Trainees should be able to:</i>	SBA	SO
4.1	Diagnose traumatic injuries to teeth and alveolar tissues.	X	X
4.2	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the management and complications of traumatic injuries to teeth and alveolar tissues.	X	X
4.3	Diagnose dentoalveolar, mandibular, maxillary, zygomatic, nasal and other facial fractures and dislocation injuries.	X	X
4.4	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the management and complications of dentoalveolar, mandibular, maxillary, zygomatic, nasal and other facial fractures and dislocation injuries.	X	X
4.5	Diagnose soft tissue injuries involving perioral and intraoral tissues and knowledge of management of facial soft tissue injuries.	X	X
4.6	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the management and complications of soft tissue injuries involving perioral and intraoral tissues and knowledge of management of facial soft tissue injuries.	X	X
5. Assessment, diagnosis and management of patients with orofacial pain and temporomandibular disorders		Curriculum REF SD:D3	
<i>ES code</i>	<i>Trainees should be able to:</i>	SBA	SO
5.1	Assess and diagnose orofacial pain and TMD, including the ability to exclude dentoalveolar and oral mucosal pathology as underlying causes of orofacial pain.	X	X

5.2	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of types of orofacial pain and headache requiring referral to another specialty, including a basic understanding of management.	X	X
5.3	Demonstrate knowledge of halitosis and salivation disorders and the ability to diagnose them.	X	X
5.4	Suggest appropriate initial management for halitosis and salivation disorders.	X	X
5.5	Demonstrate understanding of the role of and indications for physiotherapy, TMJ arthrocentesis, nerve blocks, microvascular decompression in the management of pain.	X	X
5.6	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of contemporary neurosurgical interventions for trigeminal neuralgia.	X	X
5.7	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles, indications, risks and benefits of different therapies for managing TMD/myofascial pain.	X	X
6. Assessment, diagnosis and management of patients requiring effective management of pain and anxiety		Curriculum REF SD:D4	
<i>ES code</i>	<i>Trainees should be able to:</i>	SBA	SO
6.1	Demonstrate knowledge of upper limb anatomy required for cannulation and venepuncture.	X	X
6.2	Demonstrate understanding of potential complications and adverse reactions of conscious sedation and potential interactions with sedative agents.	X	X
6.3	Recognise and suggest appropriate management for complications and adverse reactions of conscious sedation and potential interactions with sedative agents.	X	X
6.4	Recognise and suggest appropriate management for uncommon effects, interactions and adverse reactions of local anaesthetic and sedative agents.	X	X
7. Assessment, diagnosis and management of patients with soft tissue lesions		Curriculum REF SD:D5	
<i>ES code</i>	<i>Trainees should be able to:</i>	SBA	SO
7.1	Demonstrate understanding of benign and malignant lymph node conditions and their subsequent management.	X	X
7.2	Demonstrate understanding of the presentation of all infective, metabolic, inherited, and developmental conditions of the soft tissues and salivary glands.	X	X

7.3	Suggest appropriate management for all infective, metabolic, inherited, and developmental conditions of the soft tissues and salivary glands.	X	X
7.4	Demonstrate knowledge of the pathophysiology and natural history of the range of oral mucosal diseases comprising those related to disease of oral and maxillofacial region as well as systemic disease.	X	X
7.5	Recognise common benign mucosal white lesions including those arising from underlying systemic disease and form an appropriate differential diagnosis.	X	X
7.6	Suggest appropriate management for common benign mucosal white lesions including those arising from underlying systemic disease.	X	X
7.7	Demonstrate knowledge of and recognise benign and malignant major and minor salivary gland tumours and conditions and the common complications of treatment.	X	X
7.8	Suggest appropriate management for benign and malignant major and minor salivary gland tumours and conditions and the common complications of treatment.	X	X
7.9	Demonstrate knowledge of and recognise mucosal ulcerative lesions and conditions including vesiculobullous lesions/conditions and the common complications of treatment.	X	X
7.10	Suggest appropriate management for mucosal ulcerative lesions and conditions including vesiculobullous lesions/conditions and the common complications of treatment.	X	X
7.11	Demonstrate knowledge of and recognise a range of pigmented mucosal lesions and conditions and the common complications of treatment.	X	X
7.12	Suggest appropriate management for a range of pigmented mucosal lesions and conditions and the common complications of treatment.	X	X
7.13	Demonstrate knowledge of and recognise a range of hypersensitive and granulomatous lesions and congenital lesions of the soft tissues and the common complications of treatment.	X	X
7.14	Suggest appropriate management for a range of hypersensitive and granulomatous lesions and congenital lesions of the soft tissues and the common complications of treatment.	X	X
7.15	Demonstrate knowledge of and recognise a range of oral vascular lesions, including oral vascular malformations and lymphovascular malformations and haemangiomas and the common complications of treatment.	X	X

7.16	Suggest appropriate management for a range of oral vascular lesions, including oral vascular malformations and lymphovascular malformations and haemangiomas and the common complications of treatment.	X	X
7.17	Demonstrate knowledge of and recognise a range of developmental, metabolic, inherited generalised conditions and the common complications of treatment.	X	X
7.18	Suggest appropriate management for a range of developmental, metabolic, inherited generalised conditions and the common complications of treatment.	X	X
7.19	Demonstrate knowledge of and recognise a range of mucosal hyperplastic lesions/conditions and the common complications of treatment.	X	X
7.20	Suggest appropriate management for a range of mucosal hyperplastic lesions/conditions and the common complications of treatment.	X	X
7.21	Demonstrate knowledge and recognise a range of other soft tissue lesions/conditions including viral, bacterial and fungal infective diseases and conditions and the common complications of treatment.	X	X
7.22	Suggest appropriate management for a range of other soft tissue lesions/conditions including viral, bacterial and fungal infective diseases and conditions and the common complications of treatment.	X	X
8. Assessment, diagnosis and management of patients with hard tissue lesions of the jaws		Curriculum REF SD:D6	
<i>ES code</i>	<i>Trainees should be able to:</i>	SBA	SO
8.1	Demonstrate knowledge of and recognise bony lesions and conditions of the jaws.	X	X
8.2	Suggest appropriate management for bony lesions and conditions of the jaws.	X	X
8.3	Demonstrate knowledge of risk factors for bony lesions and conditions of the jaws.	X	X
8.4	Plan and suggest appropriate management for oral surgery treatment to minimise complications.	X	X
9. Assessment, diagnosis and management of patients in need of oral rehabilitation		Curriculum REF SD:D7	
<i>ES code</i>	<i>Trainees should be able to:</i>	SBA	SO
9.1	Demonstrate knowledge of different types of dental implants, indications for their use and their limitations and techniques for their placement.	X	X

9.2	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the indications, benefits and risks of guided implant surgery and dynamic navigation techniques.	X	X
9.3	Apply knowledge of the different biomaterials available for tissue regeneration / augmentation techniques including advantages and disadvantages.	X	X
9.4	Demonstrate knowledge of the different techniques for facilitating dental implant rehabilitation including use of donor tissue sites in cases where there is a lack of hard and soft tissue and their advantages and disadvantages.	X	X
9.5	Demonstrate knowledge of and indications for tissue preservation techniques and different biomaterials for tissue regeneration/ augmentation techniques including their advantages and disadvantages.	X	X
9.6	Assess the success of implants and recognise and suggest appropriate management for complications of implant therapy and tissue regeneration techniques.	X	X
9.7	Suggest appropriate management for peri-implant disease including peri-implant mucositis and peri-implantitis.	X	X

Version control

Version	Date	Changes made
1.0	9 November 2025	Document approved for publication
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.