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1  Current and previous qualifications

1  What qualifications are currently available?
These are the City & Guilds Level 3 NVQ in Dental Nursing (Qualification Number 3231-23 Full Qualification or 3231-83 Unit Route) and the City & Guilds Award in Dental Nursing Level 3 (Qualification Number 7393).

2  What is the VRQ in Dental Nursing?
VRQ stands for Vocationally Related Qualification this distinguishes it from the NVQ (National Vocational Qualification).

The VRQ in Dental Nursing is more properly termed the Award in Dental Nursing.

3  How is the Award in Dental Nursing assessed?
The only assessment within the Award in Dental Nursing is a final examination. Candidates should only be entered for the examination if they have completed their programme of learning and the centre judges that they are ready.

Details of the assessment are contained in the Qualification Handbook available on the City & Guilds website.

4  Why are there two qualifications?
To meet the requirements for registration with the General Dental Council (GDC) Dental Nurses must hold both qualifications. The NVQ assesses work based competence and applied knowledge, the Award in Dental Nursing tests specific knowledge that is key to the GDC curriculum.

In effect the City & Guilds Award in Dental Nursing replaces what was previously referred to as the Independent Assessment in the Level 2 and Level 3 NVQs in Oral Health Care. In both instances, NEBDN managed the test.

The City & Guilds Award in Dental Nursing is also accredited as the required Technical Certificate for the Dental Nursing Apprenticeship Framework.

5  What happens with the previous NVQs in Oral Health Care?
You can no longer register candidates for these NVQs (Qualification Numbers 3231-21; 3231-92; 3231-31 and 3231-93). However, candidates who are already registered have time to complete their qualifications and claim certificates. The last Certification dates are 31/08/2009 for Level 2 and 31/08/2010 for Level 3.

These NVQs still incorporate the Independent Assessment managed by NEBDN and will continue until the end certification dates. To enter candidates for the Independent Assessment you will need to contact the NEBDN directly.
Gaining approval and registering candidates

1 How do I know what qualifications my centre is approved to offer?
You need to ensure that your centre is approved to offer both the NVQ in Dental Nursing (3231-23/83) and the Award in Dental Nursing (7393). If you were previously approved to offer the NVQs in Oral Health you are able to apply for Fast Track by completing the Fast Track Form and gained approval to offer both of the new qualifications.

To check that you have approval for both qualifications you can check on the Walled Garden or by contacting your regional or national office and asking there.

2 How do I register candidates?
If you wish to offer the apprenticeship and to ensure that candidates have the right certificates for GDC regulation you need to register candidates for both qualifications. This means that you need to enter their names via the Walled garden or by Form S for each qualification.

Centres will be invoiced for the appropriate registration fee.

If you are offering the apprenticeship programme you will also need to enter candidates for the Key Skills qualifications.
3 The examination in the Award in Dental Nursing

1 How do I enter candidates for the examination in the Award in Dental Nursing?
The Award in Dental Nursing is assessed by a 90 minute examination. The examination is available on three occasions in each year (March, June and December). The actual dates and times are found in the City & Guilds catalogue.

We would advise you to select the examination you wish to enter candidates for at least two months in advance. This will ensure that this is done in time and without payment of late entry fees. You then enter the candidates for the chosen examination through the Walled Garden or by using Form S.

2 How are the results of the examinations notified to centres?
The results are released by City & Guilds to each centre that has entered candidates. City & Guilds aims to complete this within 45 days of the date of the examination. It is the responsibility of the centre to advise candidates of the results. For those candidates that pass a Certificate for the qualification, they will automatically be issued by City & Guilds and the centre will be invoiced.

3 How many times can a candidate re-sit the examination?
In order to be fair to candidates, City & Guilds recommends that candidates should only be entered for the examination following completion of their learning programme.

Although the number of re-sit opportunities is unlimited for the period of their registration, we would strongly recommend that in most circumstances candidates should be offered one opportunity for a re-sit if they do not pass on their first attempt.