

Job Title:	Dental Therapist		
Department:	Health & Social Services	Section:	Dental Services
Reports to:	Senior Dental Officer		
Grade:	Falkland Islands Government (FIG) Grade – D2	Job Code:	TBC

Overall Purpose of the Role

Working closely with the dental team (two dentists and four dental nurses), the post holder is responsible for providing both dental hygiene and dental therapy activities as part of the Falkland Islands Dental Service. In addition, the Dental Therapist will play a critical role in the orthodontic service by providing tailored oral hygiene/health advice and cleaning for those patients undergoing orthodontic treatment.

Main Accountabilities

Clinical duties

- Examining patient's teeth and mouth for signs of disease or other dental problems, planning treatments, and referring patients to colleagues for further dental care as required.
- Prescribing and taking dental radiographs as required.
- Administering local anesthetic.
- Assessing the periodontal tissues and oral hygiene, using pocket charting, plaque scores or similar.
- Carrying out periodontal cleanings, including prophy polishing, supragingival and subgingival scaling and debridement using both hand and powered instruments.
- Applying fissure sealants and topical fluoride treatments.
- Undertaking further dental procedures as per the UK's General Dental Council (GDC) Guidelines "Scope of Practice" - 'Dental Therapists' (modified to meet local needs and circumstances). This will include but not be limited to:
 - ❖ Temporary and permanent direct restorations on primary and secondary teeth.
 - ❖ Pulpotomies on primary teeth
 - ❖ Extraction of primary teeth
 - ❖ Placing pre-formed crowns on primary teeth
 - ❖ Adjusting restorations

Continued on next page

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Main Accountabilities continued			
<p>Health and Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring work is carried out in compliance with the applicable regulations on safety and hygiene concerning, for example, the sterilization of all equipment and instruments, or the cleaning and disinfection of all work areas. • Protecting patients and employees by adhering to infection-control guidelines. • Ensuring operation of dental equipment by completing preventive maintenance requirements, following manufacturer’s instructions, troubleshooting malfunctions, and calling for repairs, maintaining equipment inventories, and evaluating new equipment and techniques. • Maintaining patient confidence and protecting operations by keeping information confidential. • Radiation safety, infection control, and clinical governance lead in absence of dental officers. <p>The job description is not an exclusive or exhaustive definition of your duties. You shall undertake such additional or other duties as may reasonably be required by FIG commensurate with your role and grade.</p>			
Additional Information			
<p>The FIG Health and Social Services Department provides comprehensive dental and oral health services to a population of about 3,600 residents, plus emergency care to those working on foreign fishing vessels and visitors to the Islands. The population is largely of originally UK origin, but with a wide range of other nationalities present. The Department also provides secondary care services to the military personnel and associated civilians at Mount Pleasant Airbase.</p> <p>The Dental Services team is based in the King Edward Memorial Hospital in the Islands’ capital, Stanley, and currently has facilities for three surgeries plus a small technical area. The majority of laboratory work is undertaken in a dental laboratory in the UK, although smaller appliances such as mouth guards can be constructed on-site. The Service follows UK practices and standards of care, modified to meet local needs and circumstances. The clinic is equipped with digital radiograph facilities, including OPG and lateral cephalogram units.</p> <p>The Dental Therapist will split their time between performing activities usually associated with a dental hygienist and the additional duties associated with a Dental Therapist position such as restorative treatments (see main accountabilities). They will also play a critical role in the new orthodontic service by helping to provide tailored oral hygiene/health advice and cleaning for those patients undergoing orthodontics.</p> <p>Indemnity coverage is provided and dental team members have free access to a number of CPD courses.</p>			

Criminal Records Check

All applicants for Government posts will be asked to disclose convictions upon application. Criminal records will only be considered for recruitment purposes when the conviction record is relevant. Having an 'unspent' conviction will not necessarily bar a candidate from employment. This will depend on the circumstances and background to the offence(s).

Any information given will be completely treated as confidential and will be considered only in relation to the post to which the application refers.

Failure by a candidate to reveal information that is directly relevant to the post applied for could lead to the withdrawal of an offer of employment.

Person Specification:	Dental Therapist		
Criteria	Essential	Desirable	Assessment Method
Knowledge, Skills & Experience			
A minimum of three years relevant work experience in a similar role, ideally in a UK practice providing NHS care provision	✓		A/I
A sound knowledge of professional dental hygiene and therapy instrument and methods	✓		A/I
Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and the ability to explain treatments to patients in a calm and reassuring manner	✓		I/R
Good eyesight and steady hands for carrying out precise dental work along with the ability to maintain concentration for long periods of time	✓		I/R
Good time management and ability to prioritise and organise complex work flows	✓		I/R
Able to work effectively in a busy general practice	✓		I/R
Sound working knowledge of clinical governance practices and experience in conducting quality audits	✓		A/I/R
Knowledge of the principles & practices of oral health promotion	✓		I
Effective listening and motivational skills to educate patients to maintain healthy oral hygiene and diet	✓		I/R
Able to work as an effective team player and develop good working relationships with colleagues and external agencies	✓		I/R
Sound IT skills, including a solid level of competency in Microsoft packages such as Word, Excel etc	✓		A/I/R
Ability to deal with sensitive information and respect confidentiality	✓		A/I/R
Excellent manual dexterity and confidence in handling dental equipment	✓		I/R
Experience of working in a small multi-disciplinary health team		✓	A/I
Ability to effectively train, develop and mentor dental team members as required		✓	A/I/R
Personal Attributes:			
Demonstrates professionalism and reliability	✓		I/R
Sensitive to needs of others and good chairside manner	✓		I/R
Caring, reassuring, adaptable and self-motivating	✓		I/R

Person Specification:	Dental Therapist		
Criteria	Essential	Desirable	Assessment Method
Personal Attributes:			
Ability to cope with challenging, emotional and confrontational situations	✓		I/R
Flexible and adaptable approach	✓		I/R
Results orientated	✓		I/R
A strong interest in Dental Health promotion	✓		I
Aligned with FIGs Core Values – Diverse, Professional, Resilient & Resourceful	✓		A/I/R
Qualifications & Training			
A degree in a relevant subject i.e. Dental Therapy	✓		A
Registration with the UK's General Dental Council at the level of Dental Therapist. This registration must be maintained throughout the duration of the post.	✓		A
Vocational training accreditation i.e. clinically up to date with CPD requirements of the UK's General Dental Council	✓		A
Post Graduate qualification in a relevant area		✓	A
Further relevant professional vocational qualifications		✓	A
Note to Applicants:			
Please ensure that you demonstrate your ability to meet the requirements of the job in your application form by giving clear, concise examples of how you meet each criterion.			
Appointment is subject to proof of the attainment of any qualifications deemed essential to the post and used as a basis for short-listing and selection. Failure to provide evidence of the required qualifications will result in any offer of employment being withdrawn.			

Method of assessment:

A - Application Form

I - Selection Interview

R – Reference

O - Other