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# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH SPECIALTIES

## NIHS Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) for Specialty Education in Dental Internship

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## **Dental Internship**

### ***EPA 1: Gathering patient information.***

Key Features: The EPA encompasses a systematic data collection approach to identify patient problems and needs, understand the patient health context, examine the oro-facial structures, and skillfully utilize diagnostic aids and interpret results. These core elements form the foundation for effective patient care and informed decision-making in the dental field.

- This EPA must be observed in a clinical setting.

#### Assessment Plan:

Direct and indirect observation with documentation review by supervisor with input from other health care professionals

Assessment form collects information on:

- Case mix: routine care, emergency, urgent care
- Patient age: pediatric, adult, geriatric

#### Basis for formal entrustment decisions:

Collect 10 observations of achievement.

- At least 2 emergency consults
- At least 2 different observers

When is unsupervised practice expected to be achieved: Q1 of program

#### Relevant Tasks:

1. Identify patient's problems and/or chief complaint.
2. Obtain a comprehensive medical and dental history.
3. Perform a comprehensive extra-oral and intra-oral examination.
4. Appropriately use diagnostic methods and tests and interpret findings.
5. Avoid medical jargon.

## **Dental Internship**

### ***EPA 2: Formulating a diagnosis and treatment plan for different dental conditions.***

Key Features: This EPA includes the ability to integrate patient information to formulate sound differential diagnosis for various dental conditions, developing and implementing evidence-based treatment plans relevant to the definitive diagnosis, ensuring that patients receive the most effective dental care for their specific needs.

- This EPA must be observed in a clinical setting.

#### Assessment Plan:

Direct and indirect observation with documentation review by supervisor with input from other health care professionals

Assessment form collects information on:

- Case mix: routine care, emergency, urgent care
- Patient age: pediatric, adult, geriatric

#### Basis for formal entrustment decisions:

Collect 20 observations of achievement.

- At least 4 emergency consults
- At least 2 different observers

When is unsupervised practice expected to be achieved: Q2 of program

#### Relevant Tasks:

1. Demonstrate clinical reasoning in identification of relevant and accurate differential diagnoses
2. Develop and implement evidence-based treatment plan

## **Dental Internship**

### ***EPA 3: Performing preventive and restorative treatment.***

Key Features: This EPA includes preserving tooth and soft tissue health through preventive procedures, preparing and restoring teeth and making informed decisions on restorative materials based on clinical indications. These aspects collectively ensure comprehensive care in maintaining and improving oral health.

- This EPA must be observed in a clinical setting.

#### Assessment Plan:

Direct and indirect observation with documentation review by supervisor with input from other health care professionals

Assessment form collects information on:

- Case mix: routine care, emergency, urgent care
- Patient age: pediatric, adolescent, adult

#### Basis for formal entrustment decisions:

Collect 25 observations of achievement.

- At least 5 emergency consultants.
- At least 2 different observers

When is unsupervised practice expected to be achieved: Q1 of program

#### Relevant Tasks:

1. Perform preventive procedures to preserve the health of teeth and soft tissue.
2. Prepare teeth appropriately to receive direct or indirect restorations.
3. Select and apply restorative materials based on sound clinical indications.

## **Dental Internship**

### ***EPA 4: Performing non-surgical endodontic procedures.***

Key Features: This EPA Includes applying proper tooth isolation procedures to ensure a sterile environment, performing routine endodontic therapy for single and multirooted teeth using properly selected materials and techniques. The focus on non-surgical endodontic procedures ensures adherence to general practice scope of service.

- This EPA must be observed in a clinical setting.

#### Assessment Plan:

Direct and indirect observation with documentation review by supervisor with input from other health care professionals

Assessment form collects information on:

- Case mix: routine care, emergency, urgent care
- Patient age: pediatric, adult, geriatric
- Complexity: single rooted, multi-rooted

#### Basis for formal entrustment decisions:

Collect 12 observations of achievement.

- At least 4 emergency consults
- At least 2 different observers

When is unsupervised practice expected to be achieved: Q2 of program

#### Relevant Tasks:

1. Apply proper tooth isolation procedures.
2. Perform pulpotomy/pulpectomy for single teeth.
3. Perform pulpotomy/pulpectomy for multirooted teeth.
4. Select and apply appropriate endodontic materials and techniques.

## **Dental Internship**

### ***EPA 5: Performing prosthodontic procedures.***

#### Key Features:

This EPA includes the necessary steps in the provision of simple fixed and removable prostheses. This will involve preparation of teeth, taking impressions, construction and placement of single crowns, simple fixed bridges, removable partial and full dentures. Interns will need to efficiently select and apply the appropriate materials and techniques to deliver the highest level of oral care to patients, functionally and esthetically.

- This EPA must be observed in a clinical setting.

#### Assessment Plan:

Direct and indirect observation with documentation review by supervisor with input from other health care professionals

Assessment form collects information on:

- Case mix: routine care, emergency, urgent care
- Patient age: adult, geriatric

#### Basis for formal entrustment decisions:

Collect 12 observations of achievement.

- At least 2 emergency consults
- At least 2 different observers

When is unsupervised practice expected to be achieved: Q2 of program

#### Relevant Tasks:

1. Prepare teeth and placement of provisional and definitive single crown and simple fixed bridge restorations.
2. Take impressions for removable and fixed prostheses.
3. Fabricate removable partial and full dentures according to indications.
4. Select and apply appropriate material and techniques for fixed and removable prostheses.

## **Dental Internship**

### ***EPA 6: Performing oral surgery procedures.***

Key Features: This EPA includes performing minor oral surgery procedures such as tooth extraction of erupted teeth, incision and drainage procedures for oral abscesses, suturing techniques for effective wound closure, and prescribing oral antimicrobial agents. These skills are essential for ensuring the successful execution of various oral surgery interventions in general dental practice setting.

- This EPA implies attention to patient preparation to minimize contamination, knowledge of the relevant procedures and regional anatomy, manual dexterity to complete the procedures, reflection and response competently and efficiently to changes, and post-operative care.
- This EPA must be observed in a clinical setting.

#### Assessment Plan:

Direct and indirect observation with documentation review by supervisor with input from other health care professionals

Assessment form collects information on:

- Setting: dental clinics, in-patient, outpatient, emergency
- Case mix/procedure (select all that apply): tooth extraction of erupted tooth, incision and drainage of abscess, suturing/wound closure, prescribing antimicrobial agents, other (write in):
- Patient age: pediatric, adult, geriatric

#### Basis for formal entrustment decisions:

Collect 30 observations of achievement.

- At least 5 emergency consults
- At least 2 different observers
- At least 15 extractions/ 2 drainage of abscess, 3 suturing/wound closure, 10 prescribing antimicrobial agents.

When is unsupervised practice expected to be achieved: Q2 of program

#### Relevant Tasks:

1. Apply preparation techniques in order to minimize infectious complications
2. Demonstrate communication skills in explaining procedure and taking consent
3. Select the appropriate surgical management
4. Demonstrate surgical skills applicable to dental procedure
5. Work efficiently with team
6. Provide appropriate postoperative care



## **Dental Internship**

### ***EPA 7: Providing dental care for the child patient.***

Key Features: This EPA involves employing effective behavioral management strategies to alleviate fear and apprehension, conducting oral health education and preventive oral care procedures. Additionally, it entails performing operative procedures and placement of coronal restorations to maintain the esthetic and functional integrity of the dentition.

- This EPA must be observed in a clinical setting.
- Participation in management under GA in a hospital setting is recommended.

#### Assessment Plan:

Direct and indirect observation with documentation review by supervisor with input from other health care professionals

Assessment form collects information on:

- Setting: dental clinics, in-patient, outpatient, emergency
- Case mix: Routine care; Emergency/urgent care
- Procedure (select all that apply): pulp capping; cervical pulpotomy; pulpectomy; placement of coronal restorations; other (write in)
- Education provided: topical fluoride application; pit and fissure sealants; prophylactic odontotomy.
- GA used: yes; no.

#### Basis for formal entrustment decisions:

Collect 25 observations of achievement.

- At least 5 emergency consults
- At least 2 different observers
- At least 5 primary tooth extractions; 5 cervical pulpotomy; 5 pulpectomy; 5 coronal restorations; 5 pulp capping.
- At least 1 under GA

When is unsupervised practice expected to be achieved: Q2 of program

#### Relevant Tasks:

1. Utilize behavioral management strategies for the control of fear and apprehension
2. Perform oral health education
3. Perform preventive procedures
4. Performing operative procedures
5. Demonstrate knowledge of applied anatomy and variants, pertinent to procedure
6. Apply preparation techniques in order to minimize infectious complications
7. Demonstrate communication skills in explaining procedure and taking consent
8. Select the appropriate surgical/non-surgical management
9. Demonstrate surgical skills applicable to dental procedure

10. Work efficiently with team
11. Provide appropriate postoperative care

## **Dental Internship**

### ***EPA 8: Managing patients with periodontal disease.***

Key Features: This EPA involves a comprehensive approach of assessing the health of the periodontal tissues, offering oral hygiene education, providing preventive and supportive measures, and performing conventional periodontal therapy. Additionally, it reflects active involvement in long-term maintenance programs for the ongoing health and wellbeing of patients with periodontal disease.

- This EPA must be observed in a clinical setting.

#### Assessment Plan:

Direct and indirect observation with documentation review by supervisor with input from other health care professionals

Assessment form collects information on:

- Setting: dental clinics
- Case mix: routine care; emergency; urgent care
- Procedure (select all that apply): scaling; polishing; root planning; other (specify)

#### Basis for formal entrustment decisions:

Collect 15 observations of achievement.

- At least 2 emergency consults
- At least 2 different observers
- At least 7 scaling polishing/ 8 root planning

When is unsupervised practice expected to be achieved: Q2 of program

#### Relevant Tasks:

1. Assess the health of the periodontal tissues.
2. Provide oral hygiene education.
3. Perform procedures in a skilled manner.
4. Apply preventive and supportive procedures as appropriate.
5. Plan long-term maintenance programs

## **Dental Internship**

### ***EPA 9: Managing patients with orthodontic problems***

Key Features: This EPA includes performing comprehensive assessment of conditions, providing simple orthodontic and emergency care, and referral to orthodontists when indicated. This will ensure practical utilization of resources for effective orthodontic care.

- This EPA must be observed in a clinical setting.

#### Assessment Plan:

Direct and indirect observation with documentation review by supervisor with input from other health care professionals

Assessment form collects information on:

- Case mix: routine care, emergency, urgent care

#### Basis for formal entrustment decisions:

Collect 10 observations of achievement.

- At least 2 emergency consults
- At least 2 different observers

When is unsupervised practice expected to be achieved: Q2 of program

#### Relevant Tasks:

1. Perform clinical and radiographic orthodontic assessment.
2. Identify treatment needs.
3. Provide simple removable orthodontic appliances.
4. Provide emergency care.
5. Provide referral to orthodontist when indicated.

## **Dental Internship**

### ***EPA 10: Providing dental care for vulnerable populations of different age groups***

Key Features: This EPA includes providing essential oral health education and promotion, applying preventive and curative dental care for vulnerable populations across various age groups. Interns should be able to ensure the provision of quality dental care and refer cases to specialist care when needed.

- This EPA must be observed in a clinical setting.
- Home visits must be under direct supervision.

#### Assessment Plan:

Direct and indirect observation with documentation review by supervisor with input from other health care professionals

Assessment form collects information on:

- Setting: dental clinics; in-patient; out-patient; home visit
- Complexity: simple: perform; complex: participate
- Case mix: Routine care, Emergency, urgent care
- Patient age: pediatric; adult; geriatric
- Reason for vulnerability: medical compromise; people of determination; other (write in)

#### Basis for formal entrustment decisions:

Collect 10 observations of achievement.

- At least 2 emergency consults
- At least 2 different observers
- At least 2 from each vulnerability group

When is unsupervised practice expected to be achieved: Q3 of program

#### Relevant Tasks:

1. Provide oral health education for the medically compromised patient and people of determination.
2. Provide preventive dental procedures for the medically compromised patient and people of determination.
3. Provide urgent dental treatment for the medically compromised patient and people of determination.
4. Provide routine dental treatment for the medically compromised patient and people of determination.
5. Identify and refer patients requiring specialist dental or medical care within or outside the dental facility.

## **Dental Internship**

### ***EPA 11: Applying universal standards of infection control and prevention measures.***

Key Features: This EPA includes the implementation of standardized infection control and prevention measures across all clinical settings to safeguard the health and safety of patients and healthcare professionals.

- This EPA must be observed in a clinical setting.

#### Assessment Plan:

Direct and indirect observation with documentation review by supervisor with input from other health care professionals

Assessment form collects information on:

- Setting: dental clinics; in-patient; out-patient
- Case mix: routine care, emergency, urgent care

#### Basis for formal entrustment decisions:

Collect 12 observations of achievement.

- At least NA emergency consult
- At least 2 different observers
- At least 5 Dental clinics.

When is unsupervised practice expected to be achieved: Q1 of program

#### Relevant Tasks:

1. Apply standardized personnel and equipment infection control procedures.

## **Dental Internship**

### ***EPA 12: Controlling pain and anxiety***

Key Features: This EPA includes administering local anesthetic techniques and prescribing oral pharmacological agents to effectively manage pain and anxiety.

- This EPA must be observed in a clinical setting.

#### Assessment Plan:

Direct and indirect observation with documentation review by supervisor with input from other health care professionals

Assessment form collects information on:

- Setting: dental clinics; in-patient; out-patient
- Complexity: simple: perform; complex: participate
- Case mix: routine care, emergency, urgent care
- Medication use: local anesthetic; oral medication; other (write in)

#### Basis for formal entrustment decisions:

Collect 20 observations of achievement.

- At least 5 emergency, urgent care consults
- At least 15 Routine care, 3 Emergency care, 2 Urgent care.
- At least 2 different observers

When is unsupervised practice expected to be achieved: Q1 of program

#### Relevant Tasks:

1. Administer local infiltration and nerve block anesthesia.
2. Prescribe oral pharmacological agents for control of pain and anxiety.

## **Dental Internship**

### ***EPA 13: Managing medical emergencies***

Key Features: This EPA includes identifying patients at risk and managing patients during medical emergencies. These roles are crucial for patient safety and well-being in dental setting.

- This EPA must be observed in a clinical setting.

#### Assessment Plan:

Direct and indirect observation with documentation review by supervisor with input from other health care professionals

Assessment form collects information on:

- Setting: dental clinics; in-patient; out-patient
- Complexity: Simple: Perform; Complex: Participate
- Case mix: routine care, emergency, urgent care
- Procedures and medication use: BLS procedures; oral medication (under direct supervision); other (write in)

#### Basis for formal entrustment decisions:

Collect 5 observations of achievement.

- At least 5 in emergency, urgent or routine care
- At least 2 different observers

When is unsupervised practice expected to be achieved: Q3 of program

#### Relevant Tasks:

1. Identify patients at risk based on review of medical record and clinical case appraisal
2. Perform life support measures in medical emergencies.



## **Dental Internship**

### ***EPA 14: Utilizing digital tools in dental practice***

Key Features: This EPA includes the integration of electronic health record systems, ensuring privacy and security of information exchange over electronic platforms, and harnessing advanced digital tools and technologies that enhances the quality and effectiveness of routine dental procedures.

- This EPA must be observed in a clinical setting.

#### Assessment Plan:

Direct and indirect observation with documentation review by supervisor with input from other health care professionals

Assessment form collects information on:

- Setting: dental clinics
- Complexity: simple: perform; complex: participate
- Case mix: routine care, emergency, urgent care

#### Basis for formal entrustment decisions:

Collect 10 times observations of achievement.

- At least NA emergency consult
- At least 2 different observers

When is unsupervised practice expected to be achieved: Q1 of program

#### Relevant Tasks:

1. Employ electronic health record systems for accurate documentation and record keeping.
2. Adhere to regulations on privacy of patient information and data security.
3. Utilize digital radiography, intra-oral scanners, computer assisted designing and manufacturing tools, and 3D printing technologies in routine dental procedures.

## **Dental Internship**

### ***EPA 15: Communicating effectively.***

Key Features: This EPA encompasses clear, positive, and appropriate interactions with patients, families, staff, and other healthcare professionals. Interns need to reflect all around effective communication as it enhances the healthcare system and elevate the quality of patient care.

#### Assessment Plan:

Direct and indirect observation with documentation review by supervisor with input from other health care professionals

Assessment form collects information on:

- Setting: dental clinics; in-patient; out-patient; health education facilities
- Case mix: routine care, emergency, urgent care

#### Basis for formal entrustment decisions:

Collect 15 observations of achievement.

- At least 2 emergency consult
- At least 2 different observers

When is unsupervised practice expected to be achieved: Q1 of program

#### Relevant Tasks:

1. Communicate and interact clearly, positively, and appropriately with patients, families, staff, and other health professionals
2. Maintain accurate, legible, and up-to-date patient records, treatment, and referral notes
3. Work effectively with interdisciplinary and interprofessional colleagues
4. Express objective views for improvement of health system and quality of patient care

## **Dental Internship**

### ***EPA 16: Behaving professionally.***

Key Features: This EPA includes demonstrating personal qualities that reflect the highest level of ethical and professional conduct and improving limitations through continuing professional development.

#### Assessment Plan:

Direct and indirect observation with documentation review by supervisor with input from other health care professionals

Assessment form collects information on:

- Setting: dental clinics; healthcare facilities
- Case mix: routine care, emergency, urgent care

#### Basis for formal entrustment decisions:

Collect 10 observations of achievement.

- At least 2 emergency consults
- At least 2 different observers

When is unsupervised practice expected to be achieved: Q1 of program

#### Relevant Tasks:

1. Demonstrate compassion and respect to patients and others within the healthcare system.
2. Responsive to diverse patient population needs.
3. Demonstrate ethical practice and accountability.
4. Recognize limitations and develop plans for improvement.

