

**Dental Radiography: Prescribing and Image
Reporting for Dental Therapists and Dental
Hygienists (1-day CPD course)**

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Course Information

Dental Radiography: Prescribing and Image Reporting for Dental Therapists and Dental Hygienists (1-day CPD course)

Aim:

To provide qualified dental therapists and dental hygienists with the requisite knowledge that underpins prescribing and reporting bitewing and periapical dental radiographs within their scope of practice.

Please note that this course does not cover practical dental radiographic techniques. By attending this course, you must already be competent in the practical aspects of periapical and bitewing radiography.

Objectives:

- Review radiation protection and radiobiology as relevant to dental radiography.
- Inspect current ionising radiations legislation (IRR17 and IR(ME)R17) as applicable to dental radiography.
- Consider the roles and responsibilities of the dental therapist with due regard to IRR17 and IR(ME)R17.
- Examine the process of justification and discuss the requirements for prescribing dental radiographs within the scope of practice of a dental therapist.
- Investigate normal radiographic anatomy as seen on bitewing and periapical dental radiographs.
- Explore the range of pathologies as demonstrated on bitewing and periapical dental radiographs.
- Discuss the principles of image reporting and discuss the construction of a written report for dental radiographs within the scope of practice of a dental therapist.
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Learning Outcomes:

- Recognise the biological effects of ionising radiation.
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of the dental therapist within the context of IRR17 and IR(ME)R17
- Explain the process of justification and discuss the requirements for prescribing dental radiographs within the scope of practice of a dental therapist.
- Recognise and describe normal radiographic anatomy as seen on bitewing and periapical dental radiographs.
- Recognise and describe a range of pathologies as demonstrated on bitewing and periapical dental radiographs.
- Explain the principles of image reporting and the construction of a written report for dental radiographs within their scope of practice.

At the end of the 1-day course, you will be awarded a certificate, awarding you seven hours of verifiable CPD.

Please note that attendance at the 1-day course does not confer competency in image reporting.

Dental Radiography: Prescribing and Image Reporting for Dental Therapists and Dental Hygienists (portfolio requirements)

Aim:

To enable qualified dental therapists and dental hygienists to gain the requisite knowledge and skills to prescribe and report bitewing and periapical dental radiographs within their scope of practice.

Following the 1-day course, you will be offered the opportunity to complete a portfolio of cases.

The portfolio will allow you to develop your skills in prescribing and providing written reports on bitewing and periapical dental radiographs within your scope of practice.

You are required to complete forty cases, comprising twenty pairs of bitewing radiographs (one pair = one case study*) and twenty individual periapical radiographs.

**where the clinical indication requires a single bitewing to be taken, this is acceptable.*

Before you decide to complete the portfolio, you must ensure that you have the workload to complete the requisite number of cases and the support of a dentist within your place of work.

As many of the cases as possible should be patients from which you have taken a clinical history and then clinically examined, following which you have determined that dental radiography is required. However, if partway through the portfolio, you find that you are struggling to achieve the required number of cases, it is acceptable to include cases in which a dentist has referred the patient to you for radiography. In these cases, you must discuss the clinical history and clinical examination with the dentist so that you understand why the patient is being referred for radiography (prescription), following which you can justify the request, perform radiography and provide a written report.

When choosing your supervising dentist, you need to make sure that they have the time to support you in completing your portfolio. Each case study will require your supervisor to provide constructive feedback, commenting on your prescribing and reporting skills so that you can use these comments to reflect on your practice.

If you decide to undertake the portfolio, we will ask you for a contact email address for your supervising dentist so that we can send information to them on providing feedback. We will also ask both you and your supervising dentist to sign a learning agreement so that we can see that you have the necessary support in place.

Once you have completed your portfolio, you will be asked to submit for checking.

Once your portfolio is confirmed as complete, you will be issued with a certificate to verify completion.

Please note that successful completion of this course does not determine competency in radiography prescribing and reporting skills. It is your responsibility to determine this through self-reflection and discussion with your supervisor.

Recommended Reading:

Fehrenbach, M. J. and Herring, S. W (2020) (6th Edition), Illustrated Anatomy of the Head and Neck

Whaites, E. (2020), 6th Edition), Essentials of Dental Radiography and Radiology

Whaites, E. and Drage, N. (2021), (4th Edition) Radiography and Radiology for Dental Care Professionals

Older versions are appropriate for anatomy; however, please be mindful of older versions of the Radiography and Radiology texts with regard to currency for imaging technology and legislation.

Detailed knowledge of dental anatomy and radiographic techniques are assumed; you are advised to review the above texts in preparation for the course.