

Oral Surgery Skills Enhancement for Dental Nurses

Course Overview:

This interactive training session is designed to provide dental nurses with the core knowledge, confidence, and practical skills necessary to effectively support oral surgery procedures within a clinical setting. The course covers a pre-operative assessment, assisting in surgery and post-operative care. It has particular emphasis on asepsis (ANTT principles), instrument preparation, donning and doffing techniques, and assisting during oral surgical procedures such as extractions, biopsies, and minor oral surgery (MOS).

Through a mix of demonstration, workshop practice, and discussion, participants will develop an understanding of surgical workflows, patient safety, and clinical efficiency in an oral surgery environment. This course allows nurses a hands-on opportunity to attempt an extraction and to understand the anatomy of oral surgery.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the principles of Aseptic Non-Touch Technique (ANTT) and their application in oral surgery.
2. Demonstrate correct donning and doffing of PPE to maintain asepsis and reduce cross-contamination.
3. Identify and handle specialist oral surgery instruments with accuracy and efficiency.
4. Assist competently during various oral surgery procedures, maintaining sterile fields and anticipating clinician needs.
5. Understand correct instrument cleaning, sterilisation, and tracking processes based on HTM 01-05 guidelines.
6. Recognise and respond appropriately to surgical complications and patient management requirements.
7. Apply enhanced communication and team coordination during surgical sessions for optimal outcomes.

Course Content Outline

Introduction to Oral Surgery in General Practice

- Overview of oral surgery procedures (simple and complex extractions, surgical removal of roots, biopsies, suturing).
- Scope and role of the dental nurse in oral surgery.
- Understanding patient consent pre-operative assessment.

Infection Prevention & ANTT

- Key infection control concepts in surgery (sources, routes, prevention).
- Aseptic Non-Touch Technique (ANTT): principles and practice.
- Establishing and maintaining sterile fields.

- Common breaches and how to avoid them.
- Application through hands-on workshop and observation.

Donning and Doffing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Review of current infection control standards and PPE requirements.
- Demonstration: Correct sequence for donning surgical gown, mask, face shield, and sterile gloves.
- Doffing techniques to minimise contamination.
- Common errors and correct disposal of PPE.

Surgical Instruments and Tray Set-Up

- Identification and names of standard and specialist oral surgery instruments.
- Functions and handling techniques for instruments (elevators, forceps, retractors, suturing materials, suction).
- How to assemble and pass instruments safely during oral surgery.
- Surgical tray design and organization for efficiency and asepsis.
- Instrument processing, cleaning, and sterilization in line with HTM 01-05.
- Hands on experience of these instruments and how they are used

Surgical Technique Support and Assistance

- Assisting the oral surgeon during incision, extraction, bone removal, and closure stages.
- Principles of tissue handling and retraction.
- Maintaining moisture control and visibility in the surgical field.
- Understanding surgical workflow and anticipating surgeon's needs.
- Role during suturing and immediate post-operative care.

Post-Operative Protocols and Recovery Area Duties

- Decontamination and cleaning of surgical zones.
- Safe disposal and sharps management.
- Supporting post-op recovery and discharge advice.
- Record keeping and surgical log documentation.

Resources Provided:

- Step-by-step Surgical Preparation Checklist
- PPE Donning & Doffing Guide (Poster)
- ANTT Field Setup Diagram
- Oral Surgery Instrument Reference Sheet
- Reflective Practice Log Template (for PDP / CPD evidence)