

Dental Fit Testing Support Plan

Fit tester person specification

Background

- Modelling indicates each fit tester would be required to fit test up to 120 colleagues across the system
- Fit Testing should be conducted by a person who has been trained and is competent in the selected fit test method.
- Fit Testers should have adequate knowledge, understanding and practical skills required to conduct a fit test.
- The fit tester does not have to be a GDC registrant.

Fit Testing should be conducted by a person who has been trained and is competent in the selected fit test method. Fit Testers should have adequate knowledge, understanding and practical skills required to conduct a fit test. Whilst almost anyone can be trained to be a fit tester, experience shows that candidates who have the following characteristics are usually most suitable:

- Good communication skills and the ability to interact well with people of all ages and backgrounds.
- Good practical skills and the ability to troubleshoot.
- Confident and positive attitude.
- Ability to assume a role of responsibility with authority.
- Diligent and conscientious nature with a desire to seek assistance where required.
- Ability to follow process carefully and report concerns effectively
- Some pre-existing knowledge of Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) is desirable, but not essential.

Scope of the role

The fit tester is responsible for conducting fit testing in accordance with HSE INDG 479 to ensure that a specific model and size of tight-fitting facepiece matches the wearer's facial features and can seal adequately to the wearer's face. They will receive a full day training course for the qualitative fit testing method.

The role involves excellent organisational skills for administrative duties such as record keeping and database entry in a timely and correct manner. The fit tester will also provide a professional, reliable and consistent service. The fit tester must be able to communicate with staff members at all levels in an appropriate and sensitive manner.

Main duties and responsibilities

Operational Duties

The Fit Tester will

- Be responsible for conducting fit testing in accordance with HSE INDG 479 to ensure that a specific model and size of tight-fitting facepiece matches the wearer's facial features and seals adequately to the wearer's face, using the qualitative fit testing method.
- Take full responsibility for the organisation and arrangement of fit testing sessions
- Maintain equipment used for fit testing and stock levels required to continue fit testing
- Be flexible with working hours as some of the fit testing sessions may have to be out of normal working hours.
- Ability to travel within reason throughout the region as required to attend fit testing sessions

Training Support

Commissioners should ensure individuals to be trained as fit testers to support the system have up to date training in the topics below prior to undertaking any fit testing on behalf of NHS England and NHS Improvement.

- Basic Life Support in line with Resuscitation Council (UK) guidelines
- Managing Medical Emergencies
- Infection Prevention Control

Fit Test Training will cover HSE guidance in Fit testing face masks to avoid transmission during the coronavirus outbreak. Further training will be required in Infection Prevention and Control.

Based on experience regions may wish to consider candidates to be fit tested trained who have the following skills and characteristics:

Knowledge / Training	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
Candidate to have up to date training in relation to:		
Training in Basic Life Support in line with Resuscitation Council (UK) guidelines	√	
Training in Managing Medical Emergencies	√	
Training in Infection Prevention Control	√	
Some pre-existing knowledge of respiratory protective equipment		√
Personal qualities		
Able to prioritise work	√	
Able to work to assume role of authority and responsibility	√	
Adaptable to situations, can work productively with people of all capabilities and attitudes	√	
Commitment to team-working and respect and consideration for the skills of others	√	
Self-motivated, pro-active and innovative	√	
High standards of professional probity and confidentiality	√	
Skills		
Excellent oral and written communication skills with the ability to develop strong working relationships	√	
Effective interpersonal, motivational and influencing skills	√	
Ability to respond appropriately in unplanned and unforeseen circumstances	√	
The ability to interact well with people of all ages and backgrounds. Confident and positive attitude.	√	
Computer literate (evidence of knowledge and use of a variety of software packages <i>eg MS Office</i>)		√
Good practical skills and the ability to troubleshoot.	√	