A CAREER IN
ORTHODONTIC THERAPY
THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ORTHODONTIC THERAPIST

Orthodontic Therapists are members of a group of dental care professionals (DCPs) who work as part of the dental team. They carry out orthodontic treatment under the prescription and close supervision of a dentist, who would normally be an orthodontist.

THE ROLE OF AN ORTHODONTIC THERAPIST ENCOMPASSES:-

- cleaning and preparation of tooth surfaces ready for orthodontic treatment
- identification, selection, use and maintenance of appropriate instruments
- insertion of passive removable orthodontic appliances
- insertion of active removable orthodontic appliances adjusted by a dentist
- removal of fixed appliances, orthodontic adhesives and cement
- taking impressions
- casting study models
- making a patient’s orthodontic appliance safe in the absence of a dentist
- fitting orthodontic headgear
- fitting orthodontic facebows which have been adjusted by a dentist
- occlusal records including orthognathic facebow readings
- making appropriate referrals to other healthcare professionals
TRAINING

Orthodontic Therapy Training in Scotland is presently available as a training programme of approximately ten months.

The initial core course - Introduction to Clinical Practice - lasts for 20 days over the first four weeks, after which students will train in their work placements for approximately nine months. During this period of work placement, students will return to the training establishment for a number of training days, which are spread over the remaining nine months, and which will include support and preparation for the final examination.

Following satisfactory completion of the course, there is the opportunity for participants to sit the examination for the Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. The examination consists of written papers, case presentations and oral examinations. Successful completion of the examination leads to the award of the Dip. Orth Ther (RCS Ed).

THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to join the course, applicants need to be registered as a Dental Care Professional with the General Dental Council (GDC), the post registration qualification in Orthodontic Dental Nursing is also desirable. In addition written support of a suitably qualified orthodontist trainer, who is on the Orthodontic Specialist list of the GDC is also required. Trainers must attend a trainer training event to prepare them for their trainer role on the programme.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Orthodontic Therapists are required to complete at least 75 hours of verifiable Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities over a five-year period. This purpose of CPD is to maintain skills, knowledge and competence, and registration with the GDC.
CONTACT DETAILS

Edinburgh Dental Education Centre
4th Floor
Lauriston Building
Lauriston Place
Edinburgh
EH3 9HA

T: 0131 563 3101
E: margaret.davie@nes.scot.nhs.uk
E: graham.orr@nes.scot.nhs.uk

DCP HUB: dcp.hub@nes.scot.nhs.uk