

Empowering Care : Dental Nurse Special Care Training

Enhancing skills inclusive, compassionate, dental care



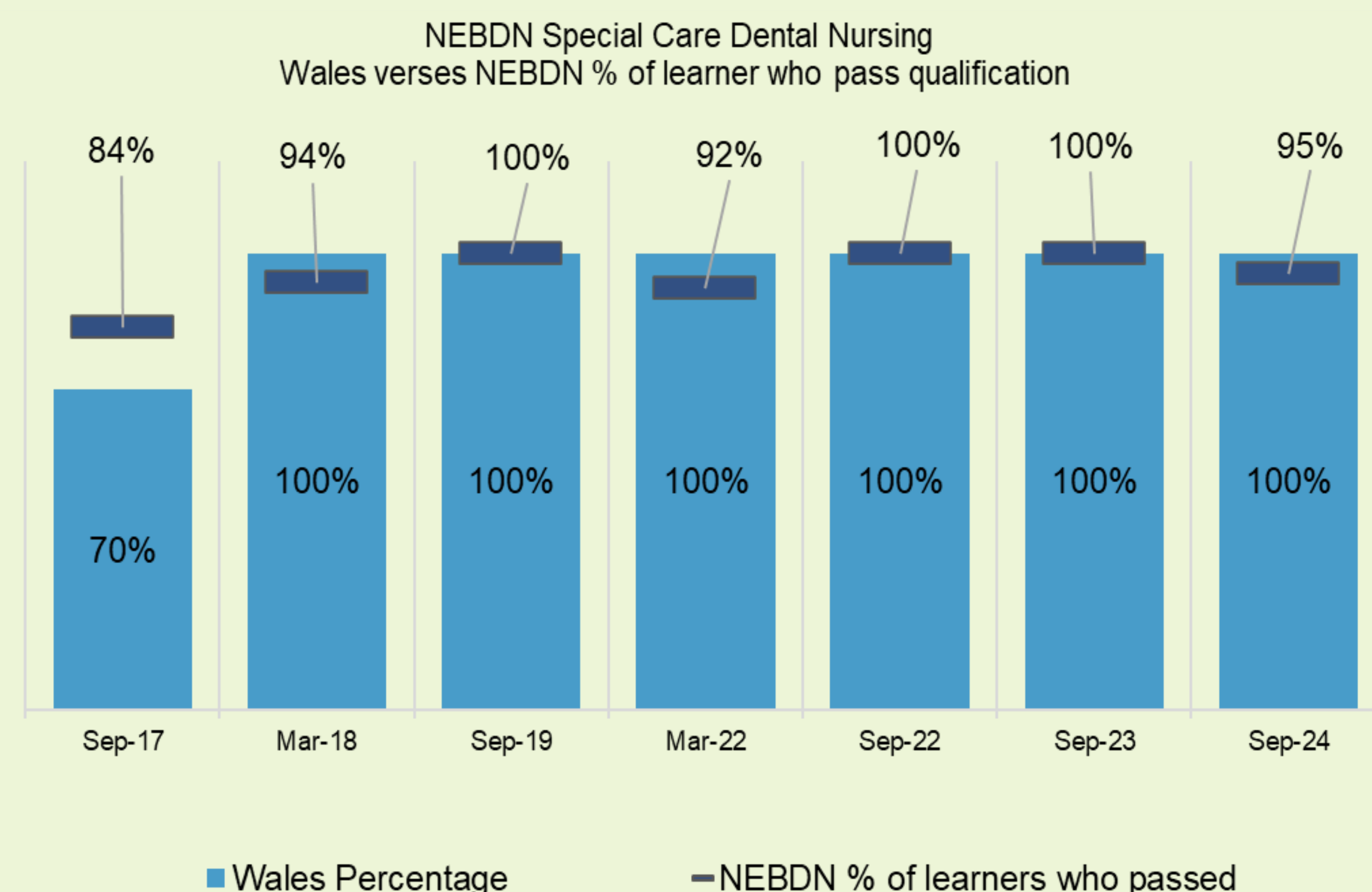
Introduction

The National Examining Board for Dental Nurses (NEBDN) Certificate in Special Care Dental Nursing programme is a post registration qualification delivered online by Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW). This programme is run for registered dental nurses who help to care for people whose health and social needs may require special oral health care provision.



Key Achievements

- **Number of learners:** vary each year
- **No learners 2020/2021 or March 2023**
- **Completion Rate:** 100% successful completion.
- **Impact:** e.g., *Improved patient outcomes reported by clinics.*



Objectives of the Training:

On successfully gaining the NEBDN Certificate in Special Care Dental Nursing the learner will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the special care dental nurse.
- Apply the recommendations of best practice in special care dentistry.
- Apply the principles of the Equality Act 2010 and other legislation/regulations and work within these frameworks.
- Understand the impact of illness, disability, and medically compromising conditions on general and oral health.
- Encourage and demonstrate effective oral health care with appropriate aids and adaptations relevant to the patients' needs.
- Demonstrate the use of different methods of supporting individuals during oral health care including the use of adjuncts.
- Understand the range of controls for pain and anxiety techniques.
- Empathise with patients and demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively with patients, parents, carers, and colleagues.
- Explain the concept of multidisciplinary care of patients and teamwork.
- Remain calm, decisive, and purposeful whilst handling difficulties or complications.
- Recognise their own limitations, reflect on experiences, and appreciate the need for continuing professional development.



Learner Feedback



I enjoyed learning about all the conditions

In the last year, I have completed a post-certification in Special Care dental nursing with HEIW. I found studying with HEIW in this way very beneficial, it meant that whether I otherwise would have struggled to attend, I still managed to attend every session. I had lots of support through email or Teams.
I found Special Care Dental Nursing useful to my daily role. I am using my skills gained through this course to be increasingly involved in our patients care, taking a more active role. I feel it has given me a better understanding of our patients.

I have really enjoyed this course and feel that it has really helped me gain further confidence as a dental nurse.

Conclusion / References

Our future objective is to expand the theoretical training to include other Dental Care Professionals (DCPs), such as Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists who provide care for patients with special care needs.
This initiative is inspired by the interest generated among these professionals after observing dental nurses participating in the course, as they seek to enhance their knowledge and expertise in this specialised area.



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