



Dental nurse/ technician

Description

In order to maintain the health of your teeth and gums, you need to visit your dentist regularly. A considerable part of the job done within dental offices is performed by dental nurses/technicians who are in charge of different work tasks relating to preparing the dental office and assisting the dentist. They are responsible for receiving the patients and taking care of them; they also prepare all instruments and materials which dentists need in their work. During dental interventions, they prepare anaesthetics, pass the needed instruments and medicaments to the dentist, mix the materials, and assist in dental imaging. After the treatment, they disinfect and sterilise the instruments that were used, maintain the accessories, prepare the desk, check that the appliances are working properly. They also carry out administrative tasks, keep records of the materials and medicaments that were spent, order new stock, fill out the required work documents, maintain communication with the patients and make dental appointments. To make the necessary patient information available to the dentist, dental nurses/technicians record personal data and other data on the occasion of the patient's first visit to the dentist and enter them in the patient database.

To be able to do the job of a dental nurse/technician, you need to have solid coordination, manual deftness, and good sight. Considering that dental nurses/technicians work in direct contact with the patients and take care of the health of their teeth, it is necessary that they work conscientiously and main focus of the patients' needs.

Desirable traits/requirements

- Good communication skills and openness
- Helpfulness and focus on the patients' needs
- Patience and empathy
- Responsibility and conscientiousness
- Preciseness and reliability
- Manual dexterity
- Shape and colour awareness
- Flexibility and being capable of prompt response
- Teamwork skills

Positive aspects:

- Daily contact with patients, providing professional assistance and a large number of different tasks makes the job of a dental nurse /technician interesting.

Negative aspects:

- The job is demanding and responsible. Depending on the place of work, you work on weekends and during holidays. Communication with patients can be quite demanding.

Career path/field of work

To be able to do the job of the dental nurse/technician, you need to finish a four-year secondary vocational school.

Dental nurses/technicians work in dental care centres and offices (state-owned or private), at the departments for dental and oral diseases, children's dental care and preventive dentistry, orthodontic care, oral surgery, and dental prosthetics.