

Compare roles in health

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Dental technician/dental technologist [1]

Dental technicians (or dental technologists as they are often referred to) make the dentures, crowns, bridges and dental braces that improve patients' appearance, speech and ability to chew.

Training and qualifications required

To work as a dental technician/dental technologist, you need to complete a General Dental Council- (GDC) approved course (diploma or degree level) and be registered with the GDC.

Expected working hours and salary range

Dental technicians generally work standard NHS hours, which are likely to be around 37.5 a week. Your starting salary will be band 5 of the Agenda for Change pay rates.

Desirable skills and values

Absolute precision and attention to detail is key for dental technicians. Much of your work will be by hand making dentures, crowns, bridges and braces and no two pieces will be the same because every patient is different. You will also work with specialised equipment in a laboratory.

Prospects

Dental technicians can progress into management roles such as senior or chief technician posts, quality control, teaching or sales. With specific training, they can also become clinical dental technicians so they can create and modify dental appliances. Clinical dental technicians have direct contact with patients.

Related roles

- Dentist [2]
 - Dental hygienist [3]
 - Medical engineering [4]
 - Medical device risk management and governance [5]
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