

End-point assessment plan for Orthodontic therapist fully integrated apprenticeship standard

Apprenticeship standard number	Level of this end-point assessment (EPA)	Integrated
ST0701	4	Fully Integrated

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Introduction and overview

Orthodontic therapists are subject to statutory regulation by the General Dental Council (GDC). The GDC sets the standards of proficiency required for entry to the professional register and these are the occupational standards for registered Orthodontic therapists. The GDC also has the statutory duty to set requirements of programmes necessary to support the achievement of the knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSBs) set out in the standards of proficiency and the KSBs in the occupational standard. The apprenticeship standard and the delivery of the apprentices training must be aligned to all relevant GDC standards to ensure that apprentices are eligible for entry to the GDC register on completion. It is against the law for anyone to work as an Orthodontic therapist without being registered with the GDC. The end-point assessment (EPA) assesses whether apprentices have also passed the apprenticeship, and is based on the same professional knowledge, skills and behaviours as the occupational standard.

This document sets out the requirements for the end-point assessment (EPA) for the Orthodontic therapist fully integrated apprenticeship standard. It is for end-point assessment organisations (EPAOs), that must be a GDC approved qualification awarding organisation, who need to know how an EPA for this apprenticeship must operate. It will also be of interest to apprentices, their employers and the GDC approved training providers.

Apprentices will typically spend 13 months on-programme working towards the occupational standard.

The EPA period should only start, and the EPA be arranged, once the employer and GDC approved training provider is satisfied that the apprentice is consistently working at or above the level set out in the occupational standard and all the pre-requisite gateway requirements for EPA have been met. It is expected that the gateway will be reached on completion of all units of the Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy approved by the GDC but before the examination board.

The EPA period is expected to last a maximum of 1 month beginning when the apprentice has passed the EPA gateway.

The EPA will determine the overall apprenticeship standard and grades of:

- fail
- pass

This apprenticeship has a fully integrated EPA. The EPA will use the assessment arrangements in use for other entry routes into this occupation and will be completed simultaneously, as outlined in this EPA plan. Alignment of the integrated EPA is permitted because the following criteria are met:

1. Parliament has prescribed that the occupation (profession) must be regulated and a statutory regulator has undisputed control of access to the occupation
2. The fully integrated EPA meets the requirements of an apprenticeship

EPA summary table

On-programme (typically 13 months)	Training to develop the Orthodontic therapist occupation standards knowledge, skills and behaviours (aligned to 'Preparing for Practice - dental team learning outcomes for registration' (2015 revised edition) (GDC 2015)
End-point assessment gateway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprentice has met the knowledge, skills and behaviours • Employer and the GDC approved training provider are satisfied the apprentice has consistently demonstrated they meet the KSBs of the occupational standard • Achieved English and mathematics at Level 2 • Achieved all units of an RQF Level 4 Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy approved by the GDC but before the examination board
End-point assessment (which would typically take place with 1 month)	<p>The EPA starts with consideration by the EPAO who are a GDC approved qualification awarding organisation examination board and finishes when the EPAO makes the required declarations of its examination board decisions to the GDC. The apprentice is not required to carry out any additional assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration by the examination board and notice of the decision of the examination board
Professional recognition	Registration with: General Dental Council

Gateway

The EPA period should only start once the employer and the GDC approved training provider are satisfied that the apprentice is consistently working at or above the level set out in the occupational standard.

The EPA starts with the examination board and finishes when the GDC approved qualification awarding organisation for the RQF Level 4 Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy who are the EPAO:

- makes a decision on pass/fail.
- the EPAO emails a secure pass list to the GDC which includes required personal details of apprentices who have received a pass.

The apprentice separately applies for registration once they have achieved a pass.

The GDC use the pass list to verify successful completion of the apprenticeship programme.

The apprentice must have completed and achieved the following gateway requirements prior to beginning EPA:

- achieved all units of the RQF Level 4 Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy approved by the GDC but before the examination board
- achieved English and mathematics at level 2

For those with an education, health and care plan or a legacy statement the apprenticeship's English and mathematics minimum requirement is Entry Level 3. British Sign Language qualifications are an alternative to English qualifications for whom this is their primary language.

EPA

The EPA is:

EPAO Examination board

The examination board will be constituted in-line with the GDC approved qualification awarding organisation for the RQF Level 4 Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy assessment regulations and must have an external examiner present when considering achievement of the RQF Level 4 Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy approved by the GDC.

Independence of the EPA will be assured through:

- the examination board, which will include the external examiner, being responsible for the final decision on the award of the qualification that confirms the apprentice has met the education outcomes required for registration with the GDC.
- Ofqual
- the end-point assessment organisation will be the GDC approved qualification awarding organisation for the RQF L4 Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy

Grading

Name of grade	Grade descriptor
Pass	Has met the standards for Orthodontic therapists set out in 'Preparing for Practice - dental team learning outcomes for registration' (2015 revised edition) (GDC 2015)
Fail	Does not meet the standards for Orthodontic therapists set out in 'Preparing for Practice - dental team learning outcomes for registration' (2015 revised edition) (GDC 2015)

Roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Apprentice	As a minimum, the apprentice should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • complete the constituent parts of the programme successfully • meet all apprenticeship gateway requirements • understand the structure and requirements of the apprenticeship
Employer	As a minimum, the employer should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support the apprentice to achieve the KSBs outlined in the occupational standard • determine when the apprentice is working at or above the level of occupational competence outlined in the occupational standard and has met all apprenticeship gateway requirements, taking account of the advice of the GDC approved training provider
Training provider (GDC approved)	As a minimum, training providers should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be a GDC approved training provider for Orthodontic Therapy • work with the employer and support the apprentice during the off-the-job training to provide the opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours as listed in the occupational standard • conduct training covering any knowledge, skill or behaviour requirements agreed as part of the Commitment Statement (often known as the Individual Learning Plan). Monitor the apprentice's progress during any training provider led on-programme learning • advise the employer, upon request, on the apprentice's readiness for EPA • remain independent from delivery of the EPA
The EPAO (GDC approved programme or qualification awarding organisation)	As a minimum the EPAO: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be on the Register of end-point assessment organisations (RoEPAO) • be approved by the GDC to deliver the qualification • offer a qualification that is regulated by Ofqual • offer a qualification that includes an integrated EPA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confirm to the employer that gateway requirements have been met • appoint an external examiner • use appropriate recording documentation to ensure a clear and auditable mechanism for recording the decision of the examination board • maintain robust internal quality assurance (IQA) procedures and processes, and conduct these on a regular basis • conform to the requirements of the nominated external quality assurance body • conduct standardisation events and activities in accordance external quality assurance (EQA) provider's requirements • have, and operate, an appeals process • arrange for apprenticeship certification
External Examiner	<p>As a minimum an external examiner should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the occupational standard and on programme assessments • be an Orthodontic Specialist • comply to the requirements of the GDC approved qualification awarding organisation

Internal Quality Assurance (IQA)

Internal quality assurance refers to the requirements that EPAOs must have in place to ensure consistent (reliable) and accurate (valid) assessment decisions. EPAOs for this EPA must:

- appoint external examiners who:
 - are Orthodontic specialists
 - meet the EQA provider's recommendations for external examiners
 - meet the EPAOs requirements as set out in their 'Assessment, Progression and Awarding' or similar guidance

Reasonable adjustments

The EPAO must have in place clear and fair arrangements for making reasonable adjustments for this apprenticeship standard. This should include how an apprentice qualifies for reasonable adjustments and what reasonable adjustments will be made. The adjustments must maintain the validity, reliability and integrity of the assessment decisions outlined in this EPA plan.

Re-sits and re-takes

In line with the EPAO's procedures.

Professional body recognition

This apprenticeship aligns with requirements for registration with the General Dental Council.