

ANNUAL DENTISTRY AND DENTAL SCIENCES CONGRESS

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Dental Nursing

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The presentation will focus on the speaker's experience of developing and delivering Dental Nursing professional/occupational standards and curriculum in the UK, China and India.

Prior to 2014, the Dental Nursing profession did not exist in China and India. In the UK, Dental Nurses have been in existence since the 1940's; initially known as Dental Assistants and becoming Dental Nurses as early as 1994.

Evidence from scoping exercises carried out in India and China identified a variation in dental nursing /assistant educational frameworks, occupational and professional standards, non-regulated practice and an absence of quality standards. Furthermore, skills and knowledge gaps were identified compromising safe practice and ultimately patient care.

Regulated Dental Nurse Education demonstrating clear articulation routes focused around robust occupational and professional standards has noted benefits. Feedback has indicated that it has transform learning by providing clear articulation routes up to degree level, improved quality of patient care, affording routes to employment supporting financial stability for individuals and partner institutions committed to making this positive change. Examples of this include:

Provision of high quality patient care resulting in satisfied patients who promote this positive experience, this in turn increases patient numbers and ensures financial stability for providers of dental care.

The investment made in staff development and training has provided clear educational articulation routes resulting in staff feeling valued, patients benefitting from continuity within staff teams and overall improved patient and staff retention rates.

Dentists are now delegating duties to qualified Dental Nurses enabling them to focus on high value activities, which in turn improve financial stability for the organization.

Safer working environments for the dental team as they employ relevant guidelines, policies and procedures to reduce risk and prevent complications.

Empowered qualified Dental Nurses training new inexperienced Dental Nurses.

Affording employment flexibility enabling migration of staff to partner countries.

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