

OH7 Provide chairside support during non-surgical endodontic treatment

OVERVIEW

This standard concerns chairside support during non-surgical endodontic treatment, such as root canal treatment, and may require the use of four-handed dentistry. You will need to anticipate the operator's needs for equipment, instruments, materials and medicaments, and select the correct ones. You will also need to maintain a clear field of operation, making sure that your actions complement those of other team members. You will need to know about the purpose and reasons for non-surgical treatment, the potential risks of the treatment, and the equipment, instruments, materials and medicaments involved. Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies. Version No 1

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

You will need to know and understand:

1. Primary and secondary dentition and the dates of eruption
2. The structure and functions of teeth and gingivae
3. The purpose of non-surgical endodontic treatment, the different forms which it may take and its relationship to other forms of dental treatment
4. The reasons why it may be necessary to undertake non-surgical endodontic treatment
5. The potential risks, complications and traumas that may arise during and after non-surgical endodontic treatment
6. Methods of cleaning and preparing root canals
7. The equipment, instruments, materials and medicaments which are used in identifying, locating, filing and measuring the roots of teeth
8. The different materials used in the sealing, filling and restoration of the root canal
9. Equipment used in moisture control
10. The equipment used in the administration of local and regional anaesthesia
11. The ergonomics of dental practice (eg seating, positioning of the patient and team, instrument passing and protecting and retracting the soft tissues)
12. Methods of aspirating during treatment and facilitating a clear view of the treatment area for the operator the consequences of doing this incorrectly (such as tissue damage)
13. Monitoring the patient
14. Why it is important that the worker's actions complement the work of other team members and how this is achieved

15. Standard precautions and quality standards of infection control and the dental nurse's role in maintaining them
16. The purpose of protective wear and the reason for the different kinds which might be necessary
17. The different types of charts and records used in the organisation (including medical history, personal details, dental charts, radiographs/photographs and study models for assessment and treatment planning) and their purpose
18. Confidentiality in relation to patient records
19. The importance of communicating information clearly and effectively
20. Methods of modifying information and communication methods for different individuals including patients from different social and ethnic backgrounds, children (including those with special needs), and the elderly

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

You must be able to do the following:

1. apply standard precautions for infection control and take other appropriate health and safety measures
2. retrieve and make available the patient's charts, records and images and identify correctly the planned treatment
3. provide appropriate support during the administration of local or regional analgesia
4. anticipate, select and arrange the equipment, instruments, materials and medicaments for the following stages of the endodontic treatment:
 1. access
 2. isolation
 3. preparation
 4. measurement
 5. obturation
 6. restoration
5. assist the operator and support the patient during the isolation of the tooth
6. aspirate the treatment area, maintaining a clear field of operation, and assist with monitoring and supporting the patient during treatment
7. ensure irrigation equipment and solutions are available and handled correctly
8. assist the operator in measuring and recording root length
9. prepare the resources and contribute to the production of a dental image
10. prepare the appropriate materials and medicaments for either temporary or permanent placement in the canals
11. continuously monitor the patient, identify any complications and take the necessary actions without delay
12. correctly prepare, and offer to the operator the required restorative material
13. ensure that all charts and records are complete, accurate and legible following the procedure

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This National Occupational Standard was developed by Skills for Health. This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004): Dimension: HWB7 Interventions and treatments