

Detailed look at the GDC's perspective on clinical mentoring:

(AI generated)

Benefits of Mentoring:

- **Improved learning and development:**
Mentoring can facilitate the development of new skills and knowledge, helping dental professionals expand their scope of practice.
- **Enhanced professional relationships:**
Mentors can provide guidance and support in navigating the complexities of the dental profession, fostering a sense of community and belonging.
- **Career progression:**
Mentoring can help individuals identify career goals and pathways, providing the support and encouragement needed to pursue them.
- **Increased resilience:**
Mentoring can help dental professionals cope with the challenges of the profession and build a stronger sense of self-belief.
- **Improved patient care:**
Mentoring can lead to improved communication and teamwork within the dental team, ultimately benefiting patients.

GDC's Approach:

- **Not mandatory:**
The GDC does not mandate a specific mentoring program for all dental professionals.
- **Confidential relationship:**
Mentors and mentees are encouraged to maintain a confidential relationship, fostering trust and open communication.
- **Emphasis on professional judgment:**
The GDC emphasises the importance of professional judgment and critical thinking, both in clinical practice and in the mentoring process.
- **Focus on lifelong learning:**
The GDC recognises the importance of lifelong learning and development for all dental professionals, and mentoring is a valuable tool for this.

Mentoring Agreement

Between:

Mentor: [Your Full Name, GDC Number]

Mentee: [Clinician's Full Name, GDC Number]

Date of Agreement:

Review criteria:

1. Purpose of the Agreement

This agreement sets out the structure, responsibilities, and expectations for a clinical mentoring relationship between the Mentor and Mentee, in line with the General Dental Council (GDC) standards and mentoring guidance. The purpose is to enable the Mentee to deliver clinical care in an area in which they are not yet competent to practise independently, under the direct or indirect supervision of the Mentor.

2. Scope of Clinical Supervision

The Mentee requires mentorship for:

Clear Aligner Therapy with SureSmile Clear aligners

The Mentee must not undertake complex SureSmile treatments without appropriate supervision until deemed competent.

3. Responsibilities of the Mentor

- - Provide structured clinical oversight as agreed (direct, indirect, or remote where appropriate).
- - Ensure patient safety and ethical standards are maintained at all times.
- - Give the Mentee constructive feedback, support, and guidance.
- - Monitor and assess the Mentee's progress toward competence.
- - Maintain accurate records of meetings, cases, feedback, and outcomes.
- - Inform the Mentee promptly of any concerns that may affect their fitness to practise.
- - Declare any conflict of interest or concerns about indemnity or liability.

4. Responsibilities of the Mentee

- - Practise only within their current level of competence and with agreed supervision.
- - Be open to feedback and actively engage in reflective learning.
- - Document clinical cases, outcomes, and reflections.
- - Attend agreed mentoring sessions and maintain professional communication.
- - Promptly inform the Mentor of any issues that may affect patient care or fitness to practise.
- - Ensure appropriate indemnity is in place and inform the Mentor of any changes.

5. Mentoring Structure

- - Frequency of meetings/supervision: case-by-case supervision and meetings to be agreed as needed
- - Mode of mentoring: 1 to 1 video calls , phone calls and messaging as needed.
- - Logbook/Portfolio: Mentee to maintain a clinical log which includes full clinical photos at every visit , including post fitting of aligners and review appointments
- - End-point assessment criteria: reflective discussion including prep and post photographs and reflective notes to be submitted at the completion of treatment

6. Confidentiality & Professional Conduct

- - Both parties agree to uphold patient confidentiality, professional standards, and GDC ethical guidance.
- - Records related to mentoring will be securely stored and shared only with mutual consent or regulatory requirement.

7. Termination of Agreement

- - Either party may terminate the agreement with 30 days' written notice, subject to a final review meeting.
- - Grounds for early termination include breach of professional standards, loss of trust, or misconduct.

8. Declaration

We confirm that we understand and agree to the expectations, roles, and responsibilities outlined in this agreement. This mentoring relationship is entered into voluntarily and in line with GDC guidance on clinical mentoring and supervision.

Signed:

Mentor: _____

Date: _____

Mentee: _____

Date: _____