



**City &  
Guilds**

# LEARNER FITNESS TO PRACTICE POLICY



**Dentrain Professionals Ltd**

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**General  
Dental  
Council**



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# LEARNER FITNESS TO PRACTISE & PATIENT SAFETY POLICY



If there are concerns that shortcomings in a dental professional's conduct or competence that are so great as to put patients at serious risk, or seriously damage public confidence in dentistry, Dentrain Professionals Ltd will investigate initially.

Then the GDC, City & Guilds and NEBDN (the awarding body of course registration) will be informed and they will investigate. When appropriate they will take action to mitigate that risk. Concerns may arise directly, for example, from a patient, by referral from another body (for example, a police notification of a criminal caution or conviction), or from other sources.

When we say that someone is 'fit to practise' we mean that they have the appropriate skills, knowledge, character and health to practise their profession safely and effectively. However, fitness to practise is not just about a practitioner's clinical performance or health.

A practitioner's 'fitness to practise' also includes any actions which they may have taken which affect public confidence in dental professionals and their regulation. This may include matters not directly related to professional practice, for example, committing a criminal act.

They investigate:

- serious or repeated mistakes in clinical care, for example mistakes in diagnosis or dental procedure.
- failure to examine a patient properly, to secure a patient's informed consent before treatment, keep satisfactory records, or to respond reasonably to a patient's need
- not having professional indemnity insurance
- cross infection issues (for example, using dirty clinical equipment during treatment)
- serious breaches of a patient's confidentiality
- indications of a criminal offence including fraud, theft or dishonesty by a dental professional
- poor health or a medical condition that significantly affects a dental professional's ability to treat patients safely.

If a registrant's fitness to practise is found to be impaired, they may decide to:

- take no action
- issue a reprimand
- remove from course with Dentrain Professionals Ltd
- place conditions on registration
- suspend registration
- remove an individual from the register.

There is also an appeals process.



At Dentrain Professionals Ltd we have a duty as so all DCP's to deal with and report any concerns with learners or their Employers to City & Guilds/ NEDBN or/and GDC. This may include (the list is not exhaustive):

- the conduct of a learner or employer
- a performance issue
- a health concern/issue
- anything that may impact the care or safety of patients

Should we have any concerns we will:

- investigate the concern whilst making notes
- result our findings within 10 working days and list any actions
- decide if the NEDBN need informing within 10 working days
- decide if GDC need informing 10 working days

[Fitness to practise \(gdc-uk.org\)](http://gdc-uk.org).