

RSDM Competency List

***Rutgers School of Dental Medicine
Competencies for the New Dental Graduate
May 11, 2015***

Preamble

The overall goal of the RSDM Curriculum is to produce graduates who possess the knowledge, skills and values to begin the independent practice of general dentistry and contribute toward the growth of the profession. An RSDM education emphasizes ethical decision making, critical-thinking skills, self-assessment and self-directed learning; integrates basic, clinical and behavioral sciences, and provides for community-based and interprofessional experiences.

The RSDM Competencies for the New Dental Graduate was developed by the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine's (RSDM) Curriculum Committee in 1999, and has undergone periodic review and revision. The current document was most recently reviewed in April and approved in May of 2015 by the RSDM Curriculum Committee. It was reviewed in May and approved on July 8, 2015 by the RSDM Executive Council.

As used here, a competency is a broad statement describing a set of complex behaviors or abilities for the general dentist to begin unsupervised practice. RSDM competencies are derived from foundation knowledge in biomedical, behavioral, and clinical dental science and information management, experience, critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, professionalism and professional values, and technical skills. During the delivery of patient care these components become an integrated whole. The concept of competency implies all these behaviors and abilities are carried out with a level of quality consistent with professionally accepted standards.

This list of competencies guides the development of learning experiences for RSDM students. The RSDM Competency Statements are divided into three primary domains: Foundation Skills (which include Critical Thinking and Communication Skills); Practice Management; and, Patient Care: Diagnosis, Health Promotion and Treatment.

1. Foundation Skills - *Critical Thinking*

- 1.1 Demonstrate the ability to self-assess, including recognizing limitations of his/her expertise and engage in self-directed learning.**
- 1.2 Recognize the complexity of patient treatment and identify when referral is necessary.**
- 1.3 Formulate a scientific inquiry and evaluate research methods.**
- 1.4 Access, evaluate and integrate lay and scientific literature, clinical expertise and patient values for evidence-based practices.**
- 1.5 Apply ethical principles to the practice of dentistry.**
- 1.6 Apply basic biomedical, behavioral, clinical science knowledge and critical thinking skills to patient care and management.**

2. Foundation Skills - Communication

- 2.1. Communicate effectively in a professional and non-judgmental manner, including sharing of literature findings.**
- 2.2 Demonstrate communication and interpersonal skills to function in a multicultural work environment.**
- 2.3. Manage a diverse patient population (age, race, ethnicity, special needs).**
- 2.4. Communicate and collaborate with other members of the healthcare team to facilitate the provision of health care.**
- 2.5. Obtain a patients' comprehensive medical, dental, and psychosocial history.**

3. Practice Management

- 3.1 Apply local, state and federal regulations including OSHA and HIPAA in the provision of dental care.**
- 3.2 Lead the oral healthcare team.**
- 3.3 Apply an infection control protocol.**
- 3.4. Apply knowledge of risk management including upkeep of complete dental records.**
- 3.5. Demonstrate knowledge of fundamental business matters in the practice of dentistry.**
- 3.6 Evaluate different models of oral health care management and delivery.**
- 3.7 Obtain informed consent for procedures to be performed.**

4. Patient Care: Diagnosis, Health Promotion and Treatment

- 4.1. Perform a comprehensive head and neck exam.**
- 4.2. Select, obtain and interpret appropriate radiographs, laboratory tests and other diagnostic procedures.**
- 4.3. Identify predisposing and etiologic factors that require intervention to prevent disease.**
- 4.4. Diagnose and manage dental caries.**
- 4.5. Diagnose and manage pulpal pathology.**
- 4.6. Diagnose and manage periodontal diseases.**

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- 4.7. Diagnose and manage malocclusion and space management.
- 4.8. Diagnose and manage oral mucosal and osseous disorders.
- 4.9. Recognize and manage oral manifestations of systemic diseases.
- 4.10. Diagnose and manage partial and complete edentulism using fixed, removable, and dental implant prosthodontic therapies.
- 4.11. Recognize health conditions that may modify treatment and appropriately manage patients with these conditions.
- 4.12. Develop comprehensive treatment plans that incorporate risks, benefits and prognoses.
- 4.13. Evaluate and manage patient needs in prevention of oral disease and maintenance of oral health
- 4.14. Select, administer and prescribe the appropriate pharmacological agents to manage pain and anxiety.
- 4.15. Perform intracoronal and extracoronal restorations
- 4.16. Perform dentoalveolar surgery on erupted teeth and residual roots along with associated soft tissue surgery using accepted surgical techniques.
- 4.17. Recognize, diagnose and manage dental emergencies.
- 4.18. Recognize and manage medical emergencies.
- 4.19. Assess the outcome of treatment and modify the diagnosis, prognosis or therapy as necessary and develop a maintenance plan.
- 4.20. Communicate and manage dental laboratory procedures.
- 4.21. Demonstrate required knowledge and skills to begin the practice of general dentistry.