

Dental Prosthetist interview questions

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What to expect

Dental prosthetist interviews focus on your clinical skills, patient care and ability to work independently within AHPRA registration requirements. You will likely be asked to demonstrate your technique, explain your reasoning and show how you handle common patient concerns.

- **Clinical process and technique:** Questions that ask you to walk through a procedure such as impression taking, digital scanning or fitting.
- **Behavioural and patient care:** Questions that ask for real examples of how you handled patient complaints, difficult cases or teamwork.
- **Scenario and problem solving:** Questions that put you in a hypothetical situation, such as an urgent repair or a complex fit, and ask how you would respond.
- **Technical and digital workflow:** Questions about CAD/CAM software, milling equipment and digital scanning, and how you ensure quality.
- **Safety and compliance:** Questions about infection control, sterilisation and your understanding of registration and professional standards.
- **Client-facing communication:** Questions that assess how you explain treatment options and reassure anxious patients.

Typically a two-stage process. First, a phone or video screen with a practice manager or senior prosthetist to discuss your registration, experience and availability. If successful, you attend an in-person interview at the clinic or laboratory. This often includes a practical component, such as discussing a case study, demonstrating an impression technique or completing a short CAD/CAM design exercise. Some employers also ask for a portfolio of work or references from previous clinical roles.

1. Walk me through your process for taking an impression or digital scan for a full denture, from the initial patient assessment to the final fit.

Why they ask

This tests your clinical technique, attention to detail and ability to explain a standard procedure clearly.

How to structure your answer

A step-by-step walk-through works best: start with patient assessment, then describe the impression or scanning technique, the materials or equipment you use, and how you check the fit. Finish with the final fitting and any adjustments.

Example answer

"First I review the patient's medical history and examine the oral tissues for any abnormalities. I select an appropriate tray or intraoral scanner tip. For a digital scan, I use a TRIOS scanner and capture the full arch, making sure to record the functional borders. I then design the denture in exocad, checking the occlusion and fit virtually. Once milled, I try it in and check for pressure spots, adjusting as needed. I schedule a follow-up to address any comfort issues."

2. Tell me about a time when a patient was unhappy with the fit or appearance of their denture. How did you handle it?

Why they ask

This is a behavioural question that reveals your patient care approach, problem solving and communication skills.

How to structure your answer

Use STAR: describe the Situation, the Task you needed to achieve, the Action you took, and the Result. Focus on what you said and did to resolve the issue.

Example answer

"A patient came in frustrated because their new partial denture was visible when they smiled. I listened to their concerns and took photos to show them the fit. I explained that I could adjust the clasp position and reshape the acrylic to make it less noticeable. I made the changes in the lab and had them return the next day. They left happy and later referred a family member to the practice."

3. A patient arrives with a broken denture and needs it repaired before a family event this weekend. How do you manage this?

Why they ask

This scenario question assesses your judgement under pressure, prioritisation and practical problem solving.

How to structure your answer

Talk through your immediate assessment, how you would reassure the patient, the options you might offer, and how you would deliver the repair. Mention communication and follow-up.

Example answer

"I would first reassure the patient and assess the break. If it is a clean fracture, I can often repair it in the lab the same day. I would explain the process and give a realistic time frame. If the repair is complex, I would offer a temporary solution or refer them to a colleague who can help sooner. I would then follow up to make sure the repair held and the patient was comfortable."

4. What is your experience with CAD/CAM software for designing removable prostheses, and how do you ensure the design translates well to the milled product?

Why they ask

This technical question checks your digital workflow skills, which are increasingly common in dental prosthetics.

How to structure your answer

Describe the software you use, your design process, and the quality checks you perform. Mention any troubleshooting you do when the milled product does not match the design.

Example answer

"I use 3Shape and exocad regularly. After scanning, I design the denture with attention to occlusion, border moulding and thickness. I check the virtual design for undercuts and pressure areas. Once milled, I inspect the prosthesis against the model and adjust any high spots. If there is a discrepancy, I review the scan and design parameters before re-milling or hand-finishing."

5. How do you explain the difference between a partial and full denture to a patient who is anxious about the process?

Why they ask

This client-facing question looks at your communication style, empathy and ability to educate patients.

How to structure your answer

Use a patient-centred explanation: start by acknowledging their anxiety, then describe the two options in simple terms, using analogies if helpful, and check their understanding. End by discussing next steps.

Example answer

"I would start by saying that it is normal to feel nervous. I would explain that a partial denture replaces some missing teeth and clips onto the remaining teeth, while a full denture replaces all teeth in an"

arch and rests on the gums. I might use a model or pictures to show the difference. I would then ask if they have questions and reassure them that we can proceed at their pace."

6. What infection control procedures do you follow when taking impressions and handling prostheses?

Why they ask

This safety and compliance question confirms you meet the profession's strict hygiene standards.

How to structure your answer

List your standard precautions step by step: hand hygiene, personal protective equipment, disinfection of impressions, sterilisation of instruments, and safe waste disposal.

Example answer

"I follow standard precautions: I perform hand hygiene before and after patient contact, wear gloves, a mask and protective eyewear. I disinfect impressions according to the manufacturer's instructions before sending them to the lab. Instruments are cleaned and sterilised in an autoclave. I also ensure the work area is wiped down between patients and that all waste is disposed of correctly."