CAMBRIDGE HEALTH ALLIANCE/HARVARD SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE
GENERAL PRACTICE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) General Practice Residency is a CODA-accredited, one-year program with an optional second year. It offers comprehensive training across all aspects of outpatient and hospital-based dental and oral healthcare.

Accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) with "approval without reporting requirements," the Cambridge Health Alliance General Practice Residency is a one-year program that admits four PGY-1 residents annually, with one position available for a resident to complete an optional PGY-2 year.

The General Practice Residency (GPR) in Dentistry offers robust clinical and educational training centered on comprehensive dental care and hospital dentistry. Residents gain extensive experience managing complex dental cases and treating diverse patient populations, including individuals with medical, physical, psychological, cognitive, and social healthcare needs. To cultivate well-rounded oral physicians, residents complete specialized rotations in medicine, anesthesia, emergency medicine, inpatient psychiatry, operating room dentistry, pediatric dentistry, and street medicine. As dental consultants for inpatient services and the CHA emergency departments, residents evaluate and treat patients presenting with acute dental pain, infection, and trauma.

Practicing alongside Harvard School of Dental Medicine faculty, residents refine their skills in general dentistry and four-handed delivery. Training in an academic group practice environment also provides direct collaboration with endodontic, periodontic, and prosthodontic residents. Didactic learning is woven throughout the year via formal lectures, lunch-and-learns, hands-on workshops, literature reviews, case presentations, and treatment-planning conferences.

The residency program fosters an immersive learning environment dedicated to developing both clinical excellence and critical thinking. Embracing the "oral physician" model of holistic patient care, the program prepares residents to confidently navigate the future of dentistry while delivering high-quality, comprehensive care to the community.

OVERALL PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The General Practice Residency Program will:

a. **General Dentistry:** Train residents to act as primary care "oral physicians" with a focus on **general dentistry** by building upon their existing foundation to master advanced diagnosis, ethical decision-making, comprehensive treatment planning, and clinical knowledge and skills across operative dentistry, endodontics, periodontics, fixed and removable prosthodontics, oral surgery, and emergency dental services.

b. **Resident Education:** Expand residents' knowledge and clinical expertise across key dental disciplines through a **robust clinical and didactic curriculum**, evidence-based dentistry, quality-improvement strategies, and the implementation of technology-based information systems (EHR, telehealth, and digital equipment) to foster lifelong learning.

c. **Patient Care:** Enable residents to manage overall **patient care** needs through health promotion, disease prevention, diagnosis, risk assessment, and effective referral skills, ensuring coordinated, patient-centered care for diverse populations.

d. **Community Service:** Empower residents to develop the skills, knowledge, and cultural humility required to deliver oral healthcare, health promotion, and public education outside the traditional clinics, meeting **local community** needs through health screenings, fairs, and/or street medicine.

a. **Hospital-Based Oral Health Care:** Train residents to provide comprehensive **oral health care in a hospital setting for diverse and medically, socially, and behaviorally complex patients** by collaborating effectively with interdisciplinary medical teams to integrate dental treatment with patients' overall healthcare needs.

ATTENDING FACULTY & RESIDENT/PROGRAM FEEDBACK

Supervision: Attending dentists provide direct supervision during clinical treatment, offer direct or indirect supervision during hospital consultations, and are immediately available for resident support.
Resident Evaluations: Faculty attendings or designated rotation supervisors assess residents after each rotation. The Program Director also meets with residents quarterly for formal review sessions to discuss cumulative faculty feedback and assess resident progress toward meeting the overall program goals and competencies.
Program Feedback: Residents submit quarterly evaluations of faculty and the program to drive ongoing quality improvements and adjustments.

COMPETENCIES

Competency Evaluation Forms

DIDACTIC STRUCTURE

Our residency offers a rigorous, year-round didactic curriculum led by Harvard School of Dental Medicine faculty and respected guest lecturers. The program integrates clinical dentistry and medicine with practice management and public health to ensure a well-rounded professional foundation. These core concepts are reinforced through lectures, treatment planning sessions, seminars, literature reviews, journal club, clinical rotations, and case presentations.

FACILITY AND CLINICAL STRUCTURE

The Cambridge Health Alliance Dental Clinic is a modern 7-chair facility equipped with digital radiography including cone beam computed tomography and orthopantomogram, electronic medical records, an endodontic microscope, and in-house digital dentistry milling capabilities. The residency year is structured across three core segments:

- **Comprehensive Outpatient Dental Care (6 Months):** Managing dental patients in an outpatient setting to deliver advanced general dental care.
- **Academic Group Practice (3 Months):** Practicing at the Harvard Dental Center alongside periodontic, endodontic, and prosthodontic residents.
- **Specialty & Off-Service Rotations (3 Months):** Broadening clinical scope through off-service medical and dental specialty rotations.
- **Year-Round On-Call Coverage:** Managing emergency department and hospital inpatient consults for acute pain, infection, and dental trauma.

Residents are expected to:

1. Provide multidisciplinary, emergency, comprehensive, and advanced general dental care that treats the whole person through integrated health promotion and disease prevention.
2. Deliver oral healthcare for a diverse patient population, including individuals with special healthcare needs, by centering treatment on the intersection of their systemic and dental health requirements.

3. Apply patient-management and quality-improvement concepts that enable the oral physician to remain adaptive within a dynamic healthcare environment.
4. Function effectively as a medical colleague within hospital and clinical environments to ensure oral health is recognized as a critical component of total patient care.
5. Collaborate and lead within interdisciplinary healthcare teams to provide a coordinated, patient-focused approach to complex cases.
6. Utilize critical thinking and technology-based information systems (EHR, telehealth, databases, digital equipment) to apply scientific principles and outcomes-based research to every clinical decision.
7. Maintain a commitment to professional ethics, lifelong learning, and cultural humility to deliver patient-centered care that respects diverse patient backgrounds.
8. Participate in local public service and outreach initiatives to understand and address the specific oral health needs of the community.

ROTATIONS

ACTION Clinic

Goal: The overarching goal of the ACTION clinic rotation is to cultivate professional leadership and educational mentorship by serving as a preceptors for predoctoral Harvard students in a community-based pediatric setting. Residents will bridge the gap between clinician and educator, providing oversight on procedures ranging from exams to extractions while ensuring the delivery of high-quality, accessible dental care. By mentoring students and managing clinic flow, residents will refine the communication and supervisory skills essential for a career as a community-minded oral physician.

Learning Objectives:

- Develop the ability to provide effective chairside supervision and mentorship, guiding predoctoral students through clinical procedures ranging from comprehensive exams to extractions.
- Refine the ability to assess student performance and provide constructive, real-time feedback that ensures both educational growth and high-quality patient outcomes.
- Serve as a professional role model in the clinic, managing patient flow and safety while balancing the dual responsibility of student instruction and clinical oversight.

A Mother's Touch – Pediatric Dentistry Specialty

Goal: By the end of the rotation, the resident will be able to perform age-appropriate dental examinations and clinical procedures for pediatric patients, demonstrating proficiency in behavior guidance techniques and the delivery of comprehensive preventive and restorative care in a private practice setting. The mission of the Pediatric Dentistry Specialty Rotation is to expand the CHA GPR Residents' perspective of public health dentistry for infants, children, and teens. Residents will build on their medical and dental knowledge by taking part in an experience that prepares them to care for underserved pediatric populations in the future.

Learning Objectives:

- Analyze the daily clinical and administrative operations of a high-volume public health pediatric practice to understand efficient care delivery models.
- Gain proficiency in diverse pediatric dental procedures, including preventive, restorative, and surgical interventions tailored to the primary and mixed dentition.
- Enhance the application of general dentistry principles to the specialized needs of pediatric patients, focusing on growth, development, and systemic health.
- Strengthen clinical efficiency and behavior guidance techniques while providing culturally competent care to a diverse pediatric population.

Anesthesia

Goal: The anesthesia rotation will provide you with the opportunity to perform perioperative care to patients who require agents to prevent or relieve pain during procedures, to monitor and

manage the airway of semi- or fully unconscious patients, to manage same-day surgery patients, and to provide care in the operating room.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the preoperative evaluation of semi- to fully unconscious anesthesia patients
- Perform venipuncture
- Perform intubations for an unconscious patient
- Monitor and manage the airway of semi- to fully unconscious patients
- Recognize anesthetic emergencies and understand their prevention and treatment
- Perform assessments of patients recovering from anesthesia
- Understand the effects of behavioral and pharmacologic techniques

Emergency Medicine

Goal: By the end of the rotation, the resident will be able to perform an initial assessment to identify life-threatening conditions, accurately triage patients based on medical urgency, and assist in a detailed head-to-toe evaluation to stabilize patients presenting with acute illness or injury.

Learning Objectives:

- Obtain and interpret the patient's chief complaint, medical, and social history, and review of systems
- Obtain and interpret clinical and other diagnostic data from other health care providers
- Use the services of clinical, medical, and pathology laboratories
- Perform a history and physical evaluation and collect other data in order to establish a medical assessment
- Take, record, and interpret a complete medical history
- Understand the indications of and interpretations of laboratory studies and other techniques used in the diagnosis of oral and systemic diseases
- Understand the relationship between oral health care and systemic diseases
- Interpret the physical evaluation performed by a physician with an understanding of how it impacts on proposed dental treatment.

Franciscan Children's/Operating Room Dentistry

Goal: Under the direct supervision of an attending dentist, residents achieve competence in the comprehensive management of pediatric patients within the hospital setting. The primary goal of this rotation is to integrate clinical excellence with rigorous hospital protocols, specifically focusing on the preoperative evaluation of dental patients for general anesthesia suitability through thorough history and physical reviews. Residents will master intraoperative workflows, providing efficient, high-quality dental rehabilitation while coordinating effectively with the anesthesia and nursing teams. Furthermore, this rotation emphasizes professional integration within the hospital setting, ensuring the accurate preparation of postoperative orders, operative notes, and discharge instructions for same-day surgical cases.

Learning Objectives:

- Analyze the medical complexity of pediatric patients requiring general anesthesia to determine appropriate dental treatment.
- Execute efficient, high-quality dental care across all four quadrants while maintaining clinical speed to minimize the duration of the patient's anesthetic exposure.
- Facilitate seamless communication with the anesthesia and nursing teams to ensure patient safety and clinical efficiency throughout the perioperative period.
- Prepare accurate hospital records, including OR notes/dictations, post-operative orders, and discharge instructions.
- Review medical histories and physical examinations, prescribe treatment and medication, provide care in the operating room, and prepare the patient record, including notation of medical history, review of physical examination, pre- and post-operative orders, and description of surgical procedures.

Harvard School of Dental Medicine/Harvard Dental Center

Goal: The goal of this rotation is to develop clinical independence within a multi-specialty academic environment by mastering the ability to complete comprehensive consults, deliver accurate treatment plans, and manage interdisciplinary dental care.

Learning Objectives:

- Demonstrate independent dentistry by managing a weekly clinical schedule, overseeing patient treatment plans from consultation to completion, and coordinating all administrative responsibilities regarding lab cases/prescriptions and follow-up care.
- Serve as a restorative provider for post-endodontic and implant cases, coordinate directly with specialists/residents to ensure tooth restorability, and offer additional guidance such as pre-orthodontic clearances.
- Utilize digital workflows, such as scans for tooth- and implant-borne restorations, while actively contributing to ongoing clinical research and/or quality improvement measures within the Harvard Dental Center.
- Function effectively within a multi-specialty group teaching practice through continuous communication between providers and optimization of a shared dental environment for patients.

Healthcare for the Homeless

Goal: In your role as a dental resident and in collaboration with the First Step Outreach Van, you'll work alongside an interdisciplinary team of providers (physicians, nurse practitioners, social workers, community health workers) to deliver care in the community. The primary goal of this rotation is to conduct oral health screenings that facilitate care management and the establishment of a dental home. You will provide essential referrals and resources, gaining firsthand experience in how accessible care serves as a facilitator for improved public health outcomes.

Learning Objectives:

- Analyze how homelessness, trauma, and/or socioeconomic barriers impact oral health outcomes to help prioritize immediate stability.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of various communication and clinical techniques in non-traditional settings (e.g., street medicine, shelter clinics), adapting your approach to foster patient trust and help transition individuals to a dental home (Windsor Dental).
- Synthesize clinical findings with insights from an interdisciplinary team (physicians, social workers, and community health workers) to help address the patient's systemic health, mental well-being, and oral health needs.

Inpatient Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Oral Health

Goal: To facilitate a structured clinical rotation for CHA General Practice Dental Residents, focusing on the delivery of oral health education to pediatric and adolescent patients within the CHA Somerville inpatient psychiatric units.

Learning Objectives:

- Facilitate a group activity that reduces dental anxiety by familiarizing children with dental tools and procedures in a safe environment and teaches effective oral hygiene habits
- Empower the participants to recognize and report symptoms (pain, swelling, bleeding) so they know when to ask for dental help
- Collaborate with the interdisciplinary healthcare team to adapt communication and clinical approaches that respect the patient's mental health status

Medicine

Goal: By the end of the two-week rotation, the resident will be able to perform a comprehensive medical evaluation and formulate a differential diagnosis for complex patients, effectively integrating multisource diagnostic data and specialist consultations to guide perioperative or systemic management.

Learning Objectives:

- Obtain and interpret the patient's chief complaint, medical, and social history, and review of systems
- Obtain and interpret clinical and other diagnostic data from other health care providers
- Use the services of clinical, medical, and pathology laboratories
- Perform a history and physical evaluation and collect other data in order to establish a medical assessment
- Take, record, and interpret a complete medical history
- Understand the indications of and interpretations of laboratory studies and other techniques used in the diagnosis of oral and systemic diseases
- Understand the relationship between oral health care and systemic diseases
- Interpret the physical evaluation performed by a physician with an understanding of how it impacts on proposed dental treatment.

On Call

Goal: The overall goal of the on-call rotation is to develop autonomous, medically resilient dental clinicians capable of triaging, diagnosing, and managing acute oral health emergencies and inpatient consultations. Through independent crisis decision-making and seamless interprofessional collaboration with Emergency Department and medical staff, residents will master the "oral physician" model of care, effectively balancing immediate patient stabilization with appropriate faculty escalation and institutional transfer protocols.

Learning Objectives:

- Effectively triage, diagnose, and treat urgent conditions, including odontogenic infections, dental trauma, and acute pain, while performing timely emergency stabilization and treatment.
- Evaluate emergency patients holistically by integrating systemic medical histories, and collaborate seamlessly with Emergency Department, inpatient nursing, and medical teams.
- Accurately identify clinical boundaries, present complex cases to second-call faculty, and successfully coordinate patient transfers to regional oral surgery services when necessary.
- Cultivate independent clinical decision-making and professional autonomy while managing after-hours caseloads, maintaining accurate documentation, and coordinating with institutional answering services.

Windsor Dental

Goal: The primary objective of this rotation is to bridge the gap between foundational skillsets and advanced clinical practice, empowering residents to function as effective oral physicians within an integrated healthcare system. By mastering complex restorative and surgical techniques and providing care for medically compromised populations, residents will achieve a high level of diagnostic and clinical excellence. Beyond chairside proficiency, the rotation emphasizes the mastery of four-handed dentistry, the nuances of practice operations, and the development of professional leadership through interdisciplinary communication and evidence-based case presentations.

Learning Objectives:

- Refine ergonomic efficiency and clinical flow through the consistent practice of four-handed dentistry.
- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the daily operational workflows and administrative logic of a professional dental practice.
- Advance technical proficiency in complex restorative and surgical procedures beyond the scope of foundational general dentistry.
- Navigate the fiscal dimensions of patient care, including treatment plan financing, insurance navigation, and billing codes.
- Cultivate expertise in oral diagnosis, with a specific focus on the clinical management of medically compromised patients.

RESIDENT RESOURCES, BENEFITS, & COSTS

Residents enrolled in the program have access to a comprehensive suite of clinical, academic, and hospital benefits, including:

- Full house-staff privileges across Cambridge Health Alliance clinical sites, including The Cambridge Hospital, CHA Somerville Campus, and CHA Everett Hospital.
- Competitive PGY-1 housestaff benefits package through Cambridge Health Alliance.
- Full access to Harvard University academic, recreational, and athletic facilities, including Countway Library (one of the largest medical libraries in the world).

Cambridge Health Alliance offers a competitive resident salary, which is published online. Because this is an affiliated Harvard School of Dental Medicine program, residents are responsible for mandatory university fees and coursework expenses. For AY27, these costs total approximately $10,000 (subject to change) due prior to Harvard School of Dental Medicine's orientation in June. Residents receive a professional educational stipend of $2,150 (subject to change).

APPLICATION PROCESS

Admission to the Cambridge Health Alliance General Practice Residency is highly selective, drawing top candidates with proven academic excellence from CODA-accredited dental programs and passing scores on the Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE).

In addition to academic achievement, the admissions committee conducts a holistic review of each applicant, evaluating:

- Letters of recommendation
- Leadership experience and extracurricular activities
- Community engagement and public service
- Professionalism and ethical conduct
- Undergraduate coursework and advanced degree studies

Candidates must apply through the **ADEA PASS** portal and register with the **National Matching Services (Dental Match)**. Selected applicants will be invited for an interview. Candidates will be notified directly regarding interview invitations and final match results.