



Healthcare Science Assistant Level 2 Apprenticeship Standard

Overview



The Healthcare Science Assistant contributes to safe patient care across all care pathways from conception to end of life in job roles within hospitals, general practice and other settings in the healthcare sector. The Healthcare Science Assistant performs a range of low risk, routine technical and scientific procedures including the production of reliable data, keeping accurate records, stock control of equipment and consumables, and inputting and retrieving patient/test specific technical data.

Duration:

12 months + 3 months for the End Point Assessment

Entry Guidelines:

English and maths at GCSE grade A*-E/2-9 or Functional Skills level 1.

NB All apprenticeship standards require apprentices to provide evidence of their English and maths grades before they can progress through the Gateway to their End Point Assessment and achieve the apprenticeship qualification.



Healthcare Science Assistant Level 2

Course Overview

Pre-programme	On Programme Learning → Covering Skills, Knowledge & Behaviours →	Gateway →	Independent End Point Assessment
Initial assessment English & Maths	Diploma in Healthcare Science Level 2 (day release, Twelve Quays Campus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthcare Science Level 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocational Competence Observation
Skills Scan	Vocational competence log / e-portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocational competence evaluation log 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional Practice Test
Induction with Trainer Assessor	On programme Assessments & Reviews: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-programme learning assessments 6-8 weekly sessions with Trainer Assessor 8-10 week Progress Reviews with apprentice and employer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English level 1 Maths level 1 Sit English & maths level 2 exams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional Discussion

Course Details

This apprenticeship programme is designed to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to be an effective Healthcare Science Assistant.

The Knowledge element of the course will include:

- Equality and diversity legislation.
- Why it is important to get people actively involved in making choices about their care.
- How to explain technical terms in language a patient or carer or colleague can understand.
- Legislation/policies relating to health & safety at work.
- How to handle hazardous materials and substances.
- The role of quality management/improvement and the regulatory environment to maintain and improve Healthcare Science services.
- Current UK Resuscitation Council guidelines as well as all mandatory training.
- The meaning and importance of 'duty of care' and safeguarding.
- Confidentiality of consultation/medical records and the limits of the concept of confidentiality.
- Key factors influencing dignity/rights/privacy/confidentiality of patients/colleagues.

The Occupational Skills element of the course will include:

- **Professional Practice**
 - a. Person-centred care.
 - b. Communication and working with others
- **Personal and Professional Development**
 - a. Critically reflect on own practice.
 - b. Keep knowledge and skills up to date.
- **Health, Safety and Security**
 - a. Follow safety, and risk management guidelines, taking appropriate action in response to incidents or emergencies.
 - b. Move/position individuals, equipment etc. safely.
 - c. Apply a range of techniques for infection prevention and control.
- **Quality**
 - a. Follow procedures to meet the requirements of quality standards.
- **Clinical Care**
 - a. Obtain verbal consent in line with protocols when you are directly involved in the delivery of a procedure, including explaining the nature and purpose of the procedure.
 - b. Protect patient/carers confidentiality when required.
- **Audit/Service Improvement**
 - a. Offer suggestions for improving services, providing reasons for these.
- **Research & Innovation**
 - a. Contribute to research and innovation within the boundaries of your clinical and scientific practice, as required.
- **Leadership**
 - a. Help create the conditions that assist your team in providing a supportive environment for colleagues.

Skills & Behaviours



The **Skills & Behaviours** element of the apprenticeship is to be completed with support from a Trainer Assessor making periodic visits to the apprentice in the workplace. The Trainer Assessor will support and guide the apprentice to ensure that they are developing the skills and competency required in accordance with the apprenticeship standard, including:

Demonstrating reliability, integrity and respect for confidentiality; handling and responding positively to change and taking responsibility for personal development. The apprentice will use the e-portfolio system called OneFile to build a portfolio of work/vocational competence log throughout the development stage, which is a key component of End Point Assessment and demonstrates their occupational competency.

Gateway

To pass through the Gateway, the apprentice must have achieved the following:

1. **Diploma in Healthcare Science Level 2**
2. **English and maths Level 2 qualification**
3. **Vocational competence log / e-portfolio**

A summary record of on-programme vocational competence, signed off by a technical expert nominated by the apprentice's employer, must be recorded in a log or e-portfolio.

End Point Assessment

The End Point Assessment must only start once the employer is satisfied that the apprentice is consistently working at or above the level set out in the occupational standard, that means they have achieved occupational competence.

End Point Assessment (EPA) normally takes 3 months to complete and consists of:

1 Vocational Competence Observation

The apprentice will be observed in three work-based tasks in their workplace that form part of their routine practice as a Healthcare Science Associate. The observation will cover the knowledge, skills and behaviour to support:

- Professional Practice
- Communication
- Health, Safety and Security
- Quality
- Technical Scientific Services
- Clinical Care

The observation will take 30 minutes plus 15 minutes for discussion.

2 Professional Practice Test

Under exam conditions, the apprentice will review 8 brief workplace-based scenarios and describe the actions they would take in response to each scenario. This will be followed by a discussion with the end point assessor who will assess how they approach:

- Professional Practice
- Health, Safety and Security
- Clinical Care
- Audit/Service Improvement
- Leadership

The Professional Practice test will take 60 minutes plus 20 minutes for discussion.

3. Professional Discussion

The purpose of the professional discussion is to determine the extent to which the apprentice understands the requirements of his/her role as defined by the apprenticeship standard and to explore them through discussion.

The portfolio of evidence / vocational competence log (that has been completed by the apprentice during their programme) will be used as a source of evidence by which apprentices can exemplify their responses to questions asked by the assessor. The portfolio itself will not be assessed, but will be used by the assessor to prepare the questioning for the professional discussion and by the apprentice to exemplify their responses to the questions.

Grading & Progression

Apprenticeship grading

The available grades for this apprenticeship programme are **Fail, Pass and Distinction**.

Where can apprentices progress to?

The apprentice may choose to progress on to a more senior role in their organisation.





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