

ASSISTANT PRACTITIONER

WHAT DOES AN ASSISTANT PRACTITIONER DO?

Assistant Practitioners (also known as Associate Practitioners) work in a broad range of areas primarily, but not exclusively, in direct contact with patients. Examples of Assistant Practitioner roles include:

- Assistant Practitioner (Falls)
- Assistant Theatre Practitioner
- Diabetes Team Assistant
- Expert Patient Coordinator
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Primary Care Worker in Mental Health

SKILLS REQUIRED

The skills required by applicants for Assistant Practitioner posts will vary depending upon the specialist area that they are working within. For further information, see the NHS Careers website:

<http://www.nhs.uk/careers/explore-by-career/wider-healthcare-team/careers-in-the-wider-healthcare-team/clinical-support-staff/assistant-practitioner/>

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

- Applicants are normally required to have a relevant Level 3 vocational qualification. Entry requirements will vary depending upon the person's Level 3 vocational qualification and care experience. For other posts, applicants may need a diploma or foundation degree in a subject relevant to their area of work (e.g. Science or Health and Social Care). Details of the exact requirements will appear in the person specification for each Assistant Practitioner job vacancy advertised on the NHS Jobs website: <http://www.jobs.nhs.uk/>
- The job advertisement may specify that applicants require experience of working with people - typically in a healthcare setting - and an applicant who has worked as a Healthcare Assistant or Support Worker will often have the skills and attributes to apply for Assistant or Trainee Assistant Practitioner posts.
- Assistant Practitioners will typically undertake part-time study, for a Foundation Degree, whilst working.
- Applicants will need to pass a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.
- Some posts will also require a driving licence.

EMPLOYMENT SECTORS

Assistant Practitioners work in a range of locations including in the community (e.g. in clinics, patients' homes, GP surgeries) and in hospitals (e.g. in wards, pathology laboratories, accident and emergency departments, medical physics departments). They can work in a variety of clinical areas including: District Nursing; Nuclear Medicine; Podiatry; Radiography; Stroke.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Depending upon the role and the nature of the work, Assistant Practitioners may be expected to work shifts.

SALARY

Assistant Practitioners are paid £19,655 to £21,692 per year.

NB These figures are only a guideline: see NHS pay scales, and job advertisements, for up-to-date information

INFORMATION SOURCES

- National Careers Service: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>
- NHS Careers: <http://www.nhs.uk/careers/>
- Prospects: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/>
- UCAS: <https://wwwucas.com/>

In addition, individual professional bodies may have information about the role of Assistant Practitioner in their field. See below for professional body contact information for each career area in the NHS:

- Allied Health Professions: <http://www.nhs.uk/careers/explore-by-career/allied-health-professions/allied-health-professions-links/>

- Health Informatics: <http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/explore-by-career/health-informatics/health-informatics-links/>
- Healthcare Scientists: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/healthcare-science>
- Nursing: <http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/explore-by-career/nursing/nursing-links/>
- Management: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/management>
- Midwifery: <http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/explore-by-career/midwifery/midwifery-links/>

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