

Healthcare Science Assistant Level 2 Programme Plan – Cardiac Pathway

Duration: 8-14 months + End-Point Assessment (EPA)



CORE PROGRAMME DELIVERY

All learners complete a core Healthcare Science programme covering:

- Being a Successful Student & Scientist
- Health, Safety and Security
- The Role of the Healthcare Scientist
- Quality, Research and Innovation
- Principles and practice of Patient Care
- Health and Disease (dependant on pathway)

These sessions provide the foundations required to work safely and effectively within Healthcare Science services.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The Healthcare Science Assistant Level 2 apprenticeship develops the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to work safely and effectively within Healthcare Science services.

The Cardiac pathway is designed for learners supporting cardiac physiology and cardiovascular diagnostic services. Apprentices develop an understanding of cardiovascular anatomy and physiology, cardiac investigations, blood pressure assessment, electrocardiography and patient-centred care whilst building workplace competence within cardiac diagnostic environments.

The apprenticeship is delivered through:

- Remote interactive workshops
- Specialist Cardiac pathway sessions
- Workplace competency development
- Portfolio-based assessment through OneFile
- Regular coaching and progress reviews
- Gateway and End-Point Assessment preparation

Learning is applied directly within the workplace to support cardiovascular diagnosis, monitoring and patient care.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment is portfolio-based and demonstrates competence in both knowledge and workplace practice.

Examples include:

- Knowledge workbooks
- Professional discussions
- Reflective accounts
- Workplace observations
- Witness testimonies
- Product evidence
- Competency assessments
- Learning journals
- Practical skills logs

All evidence is uploaded and reviewed through the OneFile e-portfolio system.



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Total off the Job Hours: 326

OFF-THE-JOB LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Learners complete approximately 365 hours of Off-the-Job Learning throughout the apprenticeship. This learning takes place during paid working hours and supports the development of apprenticeship knowledge, skills and behaviours.

Activities include:

Core Learning

- Workshops and tutorials
- Independent research and study
- Reflective practice
- Portfolio development

Workplace Learning

- Shadowing cardiac physiologists
- Observation of diagnostic procedures
- MDT activities
- Competency development
- Service improvement activities

Specialist Learning

- Blood pressure assessment clinics
- Ambulatory blood pressure monitoring
- ECG recording and interpretation activities
- Cardiac monitoring
- Ambulatory ECG fitting and monitoring
- Arrhythmia recognition workshops
- Diagnostic equipment familiarisation
- Data interpretation and quality assurance activities

PROGRAMME OUTCOME

Apprentices will be able to:

- Support cardiac diagnostic services
- Carry out routine cardiovascular measurements safely
- Perform blood pressure monitoring and ECG procedures
- Support ambulatory monitoring services
- Apply quality and safety standards in practice
- Work effectively within multidisciplinary teams
- Deliver person-centred care
- Contribute to positive patient outcomes

SPECIALIST PATHWAY DELIVERY – CARDIAC

Specialist learning focuses on the knowledge and skills required to support cardiac diagnostic services.

Topics include:

- Human anatomy and physiology
- Cardiovascular, lymphatic and respiratory systems
- Manual and automated blood pressure measurement
- Ambulatory blood pressure monitoring (ABPM)
- Electrocardiography (ECG)
- Cardiac monitoring
- Ambulatory ECG monitoring
- Arrhythmia recognition
- Cardiovascular disease and patient care
- Diagnostic equipment and quality assurance
- Clinical governance and safe practice

Learners develop practical workplace skills whilst supporting cardiac investigations under supervision.

END-POINT ASSESSMENT (EPA)

The apprenticeship concludes with an independent End-Point Assessment delivered by the National School for Healthcare Science (NSHCS).

Assessment includes:

- Observation of Practice with Questions
- Professional Discussion
- Portfolio Review

Successful apprentices achieve the nationally recognised:

Healthcare Science Assistant Level 2 Apprenticeship Standard.

PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

Following successful completion, learners may progress to:

- Healthcare Science Assistant roles
- Cardiac Physiology support roles
- Level 4 Healthcare Science Associate Apprenticeships



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