# HEALTHCARE SCIENCE ASSOCIATE LEVEL 4 PROGRAMME PLAN - NEUROPHYSIOLOGY

**Duration: 24 months + End-Point Assessment (EPA)**

**CORE SESSIONS (ALL PATHWAYS)**

- Being a Successful Student & Scientist
- Effective Communication
- Legal & Ethical context of working in Healthcare Science
- Health, Safety & Security
- Quality, Audit Research & Development
- Working in A Technical Environment
- Teaching, Training & Assessing Others
- Leadership, Supervision, Mentoring & Teamwork

**PROGRAMME STRUCTURE**

The programme is designed to develop Healthcare Science Associates working within Neurophysiology services, supporting the diagnosis and monitoring of neurological conditions such as epilepsy, stroke and dementia.

Healthcare Science Associates play a vital role in supporting clinicians to assess brain activity and contribute to patient diagnosis and treatment planning. This programme develops the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to work safely, effectively and with increasing autonomy in a specialist clinical environment.

The apprenticeship is delivered through:

- Monthly remote **core sessions** (shared across all pathways)
- **Neurophysiology units** aligned to workplace role
- **Workplace-based clinical practice and competency development**
- **Portfolio-based assessment** via e-portfolio
- **Regular coaching and progress reviews**
- **Gateway and End-Point Assessment** in the final months

Learning is applied directly within the workplace to support real patient care, diagnostic accuracy and service delivery.

**ASSESSMENT METHODS**

Assessment is portfolio-based and includes a range of workplace evidence demonstrating clinical competence and applied knowledge.

**Examples include:**

- Direct observation of clinical practice
- Reflective accounts of diagnostic procedures
- Professional discussions
- Case studies and diagnostic reasoning activities
- Work products (e.g. reports, recorded results, interpretations)
- Witness testimonies from clinicians or managers
- Competency-based assessments
- Knowledge questions or written assignments

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

Dynamic Training

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**Total off the Job Hours: 578 over a 24 months duration**

## OFF-THE-JOB LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Learners complete off-the-job training in line with apprenticeship requirements. Activities include:

**Core Learning**
- Attending core sessions
- Completing knowledge-based assignments

**Workplace Clinical Practice**
- Supporting EEG and diagnostic investigations
- Recording and handling clinical data
- Working directly with patients, including those in distress
- Working within multidisciplinary teams

**Specialist Development**
- Developing competency in neurophysiology equipment
- Supporting diagnostic procedures
- Building confidence in interpreting data

**Quality and Service Improvement**
- Participating in audits
- Reviewing clinical practice
- Supporting improvements in diagnostic services

**Research and Professional Learning**
- Reviewing clinical guidelines and best practice
- Understanding neurological conditions and diagnostics
- Developing scientific knowledge

**Reflective Practice and Portfolio Development**
- Writing reflective accounts
- Logging competencies and evidence
- Gathering feedback from colleagues

**Coaching and Progress Reviews**
- Regular coach reviews
- Setting development goals
- Preparing for End-Point Assessment

## PROGRAMME OUTCOME

Apprentices will be able to:
- Support neurophysiology diagnostic procedures safely and effectively
- Record and contribute to interpretation of neurological data
- Apply scientific knowledge in clinical practice
- Work with increasing autonomy within defined scope
- Communicate effectively with patients and multidisciplinary teams
- Contribute to accurate diagnosis and patient care
- Operate within governance and professional frameworks

## SPECIALIST PATHWAY DELIVERY – NEUROPHYSIOLOGY

Delivered following the core units and aligned to workplace role.

**Specialist units include:**
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Maths and Physics for diagnostics and data interpretation
- Assisting with Electroencephalography (EEG)

Learners will develop the skills to support clinicians in recording and interpreting diagnostic data, contributing to the assessment of neurological conditions.

Specialist teaching is delivered by industry experts and directly connected to real clinical practice.

## END-POINT ASSESSMENT (EPA)

The apprenticeship concludes with an independent End-Point Assessment. The assessment typically includes:
- **Observation of Practice**

Assessment of clinical competence within the workplace
- **Professional Discussion**

Exploring knowledge, skills and behaviours
- **Portfolio Review**

Showcasing evidence of competence and development

**Achievement**:
Level 4 Healthcare Science Associate Apprenticeship
**Grades available:** Pass or Distinction

## FUNCTIONAL SKILLS

Functional Skills in English and maths are optional for apprentices aged 19+.

Support is provided where required.

## PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

On successful completion, learners may progress to:
- Band 4 Healthcare Science Associate / Assistant Practitioner roles
- Level 6 Degree Apprenticeships (e.g. Healthcare Science / Physiological Sciences)
- Specialist Clinical Physiologist roles (with further training)
- Careers in diagnostic, neurophysiology or clinical imaging services

Dynamic Training
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