

Healthcare Science Assistant Level 2 Programme Plan – Pathology 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 Pathology pathway is designed for learners working within laboratory and pathology services. Apprentices develop an understanding of specimen handling, laboratory processes, quality standards, health and safety requirements and the vital role pathology services play in supporting patient diagnosis and treatment.

The apprenticeship is delivered through:

- Remote interactive workshops
- Specialist Pathology 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 laboratory environments to support safe and effective pathology services.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

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

Examples include:

- Knowledge workbooks
- Professional discussions
- Workplace observations
- Witness testimonies
- Competency records
- Signed documentation
- Audit trails
- Learning journals
- Work-based evidence

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 326 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 laboratory staff
- Observation of pathology processes
- Competency development
- Service improvement activities
- Attendance at team and quality meetings

Specialist Learning

- Specimen booking and reception
- Sample transportation and storage processes
- Audit trail reviews
- Stock management activities
- Laboratory quality procedures
- Health and safety activities
- CPD and departmental training
- Laboratory documentation and record keeping

SPECIALIST PATHWAY DELIVERY – PATHOLOGY

Specialist learning focuses on the knowledge and skills required to support pathology and laboratory services.

Topics include:

- Specimen reception and processing
- Sorting, transporting and storing laboratory samples
- Laboratory health and safety procedures
- Quality standards and governance
- Managing high-risk specimens
- Handling unsuitable or mislabelled samples
- Sample tracking and audit trails
- Stock control and laboratory documentation
- Laboratory workflows and processes
- Professional practice within pathology services

Learners develop practical workplace skills whilst supporting pathology services and contributing to the accurate handling and processing of patient samples.

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:

- Senior Healthcare Science Assistant roles
- Pathology Support Worker positions
- Laboratory Assistant roles
- Level 4 Healthcare Science Associate Apprenticeships
- Biomedical Science support pathways
- Other Healthcare Science specialisms

PROGRAMME OUTCOME

Apprentices will be able to:

- Support pathology and laboratory services safely and effectively
- Receive, sort, transport and store laboratory specimens correctly
- Apply laboratory quality and safety procedures
- Handle high-risk and problematic samples appropriately
- Maintain accurate records and audit trails
- Work effectively within multidisciplinary teams
- Apply governance and quality standards in practice
- Contribute to accurate diagnosis and positive patient outcomes



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