

HEALTHCARE SCIENCE ASSOCIATE LEVEL 4 PROGRAMME PLAN - SLEEP SCIENCE

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 Level 4 Healthcare Science Associate apprenticeship is an ideal way for learners to gain a recognised qualification whilst working within a relevant healthcare science-related industry.

The Sleep pathway is specifically designed to support learners working within a sleep diagnostics service, performing a range of diagnostic investigations and supporting patients through sleep assessment and therapy. This includes undertaking sleep diagnostics, downloading and analysing sleep study data, and supporting sleep therapy services, including CPAP set-up, initiation, monitoring and review.

The apprenticeship is delivered through:

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

Learning is practical and embedded within the workplace, ensuring direct application to patient care and service delivery.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment is portfolio-based and demonstrates clinical competence and applied knowledge.

Examples include:

- Direct observation of clinical practice
- Reflective accounts of procedures and patient care
- Professional discussions
- Case studies and diagnostic reasoning activities
- Work products (e.g. reports, results interpretation)
- Witness testimonies from clinical colleagues
- Competency assessments
- Knowledge-based assignments

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



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

OFF-THE-JOB LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Learners complete a minimum of off-the-job training hours across the programme (in line with apprenticeship requirements).

Activities include:

Core Learning

- Attending monthly core sessions
- Completing structured assignments and knowledge tasks

Workplace Clinical Practice

- Performing diagnostic and clinical procedures
- Supporting patient pathways
- Working within multidisciplinary teams
- Applying safe and effective techniques

Specialist Development

- Develop knowledge and practical skills in sleep diagnostic testing, sleep study analysis, patient assessment, CPAP set-up, initiation and review, and patient education.

Quality and Service Improvement

- Participating in audit activities
- Reviewing clinical processes
- Contributing to service improvements

Research and Professional Learning

- Reviewing policies, procedures and clinical guidelines
- Exploring best practice in healthcare science
- Developing scientific understanding

Reflective Practice and Portfolio Development

- Writing reflective accounts
- Recording clinical competencies
- Gathering feedback from supervisors

Coaching and Progress Reviews

- Regular reviews with skills coaches
- Setting development goals
- Preparing for EPA

PROGRAMME OUTCOME

Apprentices will be able to:

- Safely undertake sleep diagnostics
- Support sleep therapy services
- maintain quality standards
- deliver patient centred care

SPECIALIST PATHWAY DELIVERY – SLEEP SCIENCE

Delivered after core foundations, aligned to workplace role.

Including:

- Preparing patients for sleep investigations, explaining procedures, and providing caring and encouraging guidance and support.
- Calibrating, checking, and preparing sleep diagnostic equipment.
- Setting up patients with overnight sleep study devices and downloading data on their return.
- Analysing and reviewing sleep study data in accordance with local protocols.
- Supporting CPAP therapy set-up, initiation, patient education, and follow-up reviews.
- Maintaining accurate records and ensuring equipment is cleaned, maintained, and ready for reuse.

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

END-POINT ASSESSMENT (EPA)

The programme concludes with an independent EPA.

Typically includes:

• Observation of Practice

Assessment of clinical competence in 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: Pass / Distinction

PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

On successful completion, learners may progress to:

- Band 4/5 Healthcare Science Associate roles
- Assistant Practitioner positions
- Level 6 Degree Apprenticeships
- Specialist roles
- Continued professional development and clinical specialisation

FUNCTIONAL SKILLS

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

Support is provided where required.

 **Dynamic Training**

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