

Healthcare Science Assistant Level 2 Programme Plan – Respiratory 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 Respiratory Cardiac pathway is designed for learners supporting respiratory and cardiac diagnostic services. Apprentices develop an understanding of anatomy and physiology, respiratory investigations, cardiovascular assessments, diagnostic testing and patient-centred care while building competence within the workplace.

The apprenticeship is delivered through:

- Remote interactive workshops
- Specialist Respiratory 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 patient diagnosis, monitoring and 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 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 respiratory and cardiac physiologists
- Observation of diagnostic procedures
- MDT activities
- Competency development
- Service improvement activities

Specialist Learning

- Spirometry clinics
- Pulse oximetry measurements
- Blood pressure assessments
- ECG recording and interpretation activities
- Diagnostic equipment familiarisation
- Arrhythmia recognition workshops
- Data interpretation activities
- Quality assurance processes

PROGRAMME OUTCOME

Apprentices will be able to:

- Support respiratory and cardiac diagnostic services
- Carry out routine physiological measurements safely
- Perform spirometry, ECG and blood pressure procedures
- Support patient-centred care
- Apply quality and safety standards in practice
- Work effectively within multidisciplinary teams
- Contribute to positive patient outcomes

SPECIALIST PATHWAY DELIVERY – RESPIRATORY CARDIAC

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

Topics include:

- Human anatomy and physiology
- Cardiovascular, lymphatic and respiratory systems
- Spirometry and bronchodilator response testing
- Oxygen saturation monitoring
- Blood pressure measurement
- Electrocardiography (ECG)
- Cardiac and respiratory disorders
- Diagnostic equipment and quality assurance
- Patient preparation and support
- Clinical governance and safe practice

Learners develop practical workplace skills whilst supporting respiratory and 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:

- Senior Healthcare Science Assistant roles
- Level 4 Healthcare Science Associate Apprenticeships



 **Dynamic Training**

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