

Healthcare Science Assistant Level 2 Programme Plan – Respiratory Sleep Pathway

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



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 Sleep pathway is designed for learners supporting respiratory physiology and sleep diagnostic services. Apprentices develop an understanding of respiratory investigations, sleep diagnostics, anatomy and physiology, patient care and diagnostic procedures while building competence within the workplace.

The apprenticeship is delivered through:

- Remote interactive workshops
- Specialist Respiratory Sleep 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
- Presentations
- Product evidence
- Competency assessments

Learning journals

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

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.



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

Specialist Learning

- Spirometry clinics
- Pulse oximetry measurement
- Sleep study preparation and monitoring
- Diagnostic equipment familiarisation
- Data interpretation activities
- Quality assurance processes

SPECIALIST PATHWAY DELIVERY – RESPIRATORY SLEEP

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

Topics include:

- Human anatomy and physiology
- Cardiovascular and respiratory systems
- Spirometry and bronchodilator response testing
- Oxygen saturation monitoring
- Interpretation of spirometry results
- Respiratory disorders
- Sleep disorders and sleep diagnostics
- Diagnostic equipment and quality assurance
- Patient preparation and support
- Clinical governance and safe practice

Learners develop practical workplace skills whilst supporting respiratory and sleep 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

PROGRAMME OUTCOME

Apprentices will be able to:

- Support respiratory and sleep diagnostic services
- Carry out routine physiological measurements safely
- Perform diagnostic investigations
- Support patient-centred care
- Apply quality and safety standards in practice
- Work effectively within multidisciplinary teams
- Contribute to positive patient outcomes



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