

Senior Healthcare Support Worker Level 3 Programme Plan – Theatre Support

Duration: 8-18 months + End-Point Assessment (EPA)



CORE PROGRAMME DELIVERY

Roles and Responsibilities of a Senior Healthcare Support Worker

Duty of care, duty of candour, safeguarding, conflict management, incident reporting and British Values.

Driving Quality Improvement

Accountability, delegation, human factors, leadership, mentoring, clinical governance and service improvement.

Health and Wellbeing

Patient assessment, health promotion, physical wellbeing, recognising deterioration, pain management and holistic care.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mental health support, capacity, learning disabilities, dementia, legislation, safeguarding and person-centred approaches.

Study Skills and Service Improvement

Research methods, study skills, service improvement planning, reflective practice and evidence-based care.

FUNCTIONAL SKILLS

Functional Skills in English and maths are optional for apprentices aged 19 or over at the start of the programme.

Where required, support is provided alongside the apprenticeship.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The programme is designed to develop Senior Healthcare Support Workers working within perioperative and theatre environments, supporting the delivery of safe and effective surgical care.

Theatre Support Workers play a vital role within multidisciplinary theatre teams, contributing to patient safety, infection prevention, equipment management, communication and the smooth delivery of surgical procedures. Learners develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to perform the circulating role within the perioperative environment.

The apprenticeship is delivered through:

- Remote core masterclass sessions
- Theatre Support specialist pathway sessions
- Workplace competency development
- Portfolio-based assessment through OneFile
- Regular coaching and progress reviews
- Gateway and End-Point Assessment

Learning is applied directly within the workplace and aligned to real theatre practice and patient care.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

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

Examples include:

- Workplace observations
- Reflective accounts
- Professional discussions
- Workbooks and assignments
- Expert witness testimonies
- Case studies
- Workplace competency sign-off
- Service improvement activities

Learning journal reflections

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



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Total off the Job Hours: 487

OFF-THE-JOB LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Core Learning

- Attending core sessions
- Completing workbooks and assignments
- Independent research and study

Workplace Practice

- Supporting perioperative care
- Assisting with theatre preparation
- Supporting infection prevention and control activities
- Working with medical devices and equipment
- Supporting patient transfers and positioning
- Monitoring patient care and safety

Multi-Disciplinary Learning

- Working alongside surgeons
- Shadowing anaesthetists
- Working with scrub practitioners
- Shadowing anaesthetic practitioners
- Learning from recovery (PACU) teams

Professional Development

- Progress reviews
- One-to-one coaching sessions
- EPA preparation activities
- Career planning discussions

SPECIALIST PATHWAY DELIVERY – THEATRE SUPPORT (CIRCULATING ROLE)

Delivered following completion of the core programme and aligned to workplace role.

Specialist units include:

- Performing the non-scrubbed circulating role
- Supporting the perioperative team when preparing patients for procedures
- Infection prevention and control
- Maintenance of sterile fields
- Safe handling of contaminated equipment and waste
- Assisting in the delivery of perioperative care and support
- Safe use of medical devices in the perioperative environment
- Transporting, transferring and positioning individuals safely
- Maintaining skin integrity and pressure area care
- Measuring and recording body fluid balance
- Communication and person-centred care within theatre services

Learners develop the knowledge and skills required to support the patient journey throughout the perioperative pathway while maintaining high standards of safety, dignity and care.

END-POINT ASSESSMENT (EPA)

The apprenticeship concludes with an independent End-Point Assessment.

The assessment includes:

• Observation of Practice

A workplace observation demonstrating competent Senior Healthcare Support Worker practice within the perioperative environment.

• Professional Discussion

A structured professional discussion supported by a showcase portfolio demonstrating achievement against the apprenticeship standard.

Achievement:

Senior Healthcare Support Worker Level 3 Apprenticeship
Grades available: Pass / Distinction

PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

On successful completion, learners may progress to:

- Senior Theatre Support Worker roles
- Theatre Support – Scrubbed Role pathway
- Theatre Support – Recovery Role pathway
- Nursing Associate Apprenticeships
- Adult Nursing Apprenticeships
- Operating Department Practitioner (ODP) Apprenticeships
- University healthcare degree programmes
- Specialist perioperative support roles
- Assistant Theatre Practitioner ATP.

 **Dynamic Training**

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PROGRAMME OUTCOME

Apprentices will be able to:

- Deliver safe and effective perioperative care
- Support theatre teams throughout surgical procedures
- Maintain infection prevention and control standards
- Safely handle medical devices and surgical equipment
- Support patient safety, dignity and wellbeing
- Assist with patient movement, positioning and monitoring
- Contribute to quality improvement and patient safety initiatives
- Uphold professional standards, governance and safeguarding requirements

