



## Healthcare Assistant Practitioner Higher Apprenticeship

### The Healthcare Assistant Practitioner Apprenticeship programme:

This programme enables healthcare support workers to develop the knowledge, skills and experience to fulfil the role of Assistant Practitioner. The role of Assistant Practitioner fills a crucial gap in healthcare delivery between a healthcare support worker and registered practitioner. Assistant Practitioners work at a level above that of Healthcare Support Workers and have a more in-depth understanding about factors that influence health and ill-health (e.g. anatomy and physiology).

### Who is it for?

The course is suitable for those working within an existing Clinical Support role such as Healthcare Support Workers who have demonstrated the capabilities and commitment to develop towards an Assistant Practitioner role.

It offers a progression route to staff from their relevant Level 3 qualification and additionally can be used to support recruitment of new apprentices.

### What does the apprenticeship cover?

- Develops individuals to gain and apply the required knowledge, skills and attributes to care for patients/families/other service users and relatives in complex situations within the role descriptors of an Assistant Practitioner within a specialist context.
- Supports students to deliver safe, quality care, against a set of occupational standards relevant to their practice area.
- Provides the framework within which learners can critically examine their own professional development, employability skills and career development, including within an inter-professional context.
- Develops a critical application of evidence based practice, supported by audit and research.
- Enables practitioners to recognise the limits and boundaries of their role, knowledge, understanding and practical skills.

### Entry Criteria

- Care Certificate
- Bridging the Gap
- Functional skills Level 2 Literacy and Numeracy/GCSE English and Maths at a Grade C or above
- Level 3 Health and Social Care Diploma or equivalent
- Work a minimum of 30 hours per week
- Compliant with Trusts Statutory and Mandatory training

### Duration

2 years

### Programme structure

The programme consists of a combination of core units and optional units at academic level 4 (year 1) and 5 (year 2). The options focus on specific clinical areas of work relevant to each apprentice. In each year of the programme there is a work-based learning unit (core unit) which runs throughout the year and includes the assessment of the students' competence to safely perform their role against agreed occupational standards required for the clinical area they work within. At the end of the programme apprentices are required to undertake an end-point assessment.

### Next steps

To find out more about our apprenticeship programmes: **Visit:** <http://intranet.southernhealth.nhs.uk/all-about-me/leadership-education-and-development-lead/lifelong/apprenticeships/> or **Email:** [vocationalcentre@southernhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:vocationalcentre@southernhealth.nhs.uk)