

Healthcare Science Assistant Level 2 Programme Plan – Phlebotomy 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 Phlebotomy pathway is designed for learners working within pathology and diagnostic services who are responsible for obtaining blood samples and supporting the wider patient testing process. Apprentices develop an understanding of infection prevention, disease processes, specimen collection and patient-centred care whilst building workplace competence in phlebotomy practice.

The apprenticeship is delivered through:

- Remote interactive workshops
- Phlebotomy units
- Workplace competency development
- Portfolio-based assessment through OneFile
- Regular coaching and progress reviews
- Gateway and End-Point Assessment preparation

Learning is applied directly within healthcare environments to support diagnosis, treatment and patient 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
- Photo diaries
- Work logs
- Competency records
- Presentations

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 pathology and phlebotomy staff
- Observation of diagnostic processes
- MDT activities
- Competency development
- Service improvement activities

Specialist Learning

- Infection prevention and control activities
- Venous blood sampling practice
- Patient pathway observations
- Specimen tracking and laboratory processes
- Quality meetings and audit activities
- Pathology service familiarisation
- PPE and decontamination procedures
- Anatomy and physiology study

SPECIALIST PATHWAY DELIVERY – PHLEBOTOMY

Specialist learning focuses on the knowledge and skills required to support phlebotomy and pathology services.

Topics include:

- Causes of disease and maintaining health
- Infection prevention and control
- Microbiology and pathogens
- Routes of infection transmission
- Public health and health protection
- Venous blood collection procedures
- Patient identification and preparation
- Specimen handling and processing
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Decontamination and waste management
- Team working and communication
- Basic anatomy and physiology

Learners develop practical workplace skills whilst supporting the collection and processing of blood samples and contributing to safe, effective patient care.

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 Phlebotomist roles
- Pathology support roles
- Level 4 Healthcare Science Associate Apprenticeships
- Biomedical Science support pathways
- Specimen reception and laboratory support roles
- Other Healthcare Science specialisms

PROGRAMME OUTCOME

Apprentices will be able to:

- Obtain venous blood samples safely and effectively
- Apply infection prevention and control measures
- Support pathology and diagnostic services
- Handle specimens in line with quality standards
- Deliver safe and compassionate patient care
- Work effectively within multidisciplinary teams
- Apply quality, governance and safety principles in practice
- Contribute to positive patient outcomes



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