

National Apprenticeship Week 2021

Allied Health Professions Apprenticeship Pathway



1. What is your name?

Steve May

2. Where do you work?

Orthotics Department at Yeovil District Hospital.

3. Which apprenticeship are you doing and what does the study involve?

I will start the degree apprenticeship in Prosthetics and Orthotics (level 6) in 2021. This will involve theoretical learning as well as practical skill development at my place of work alongside distance learning delivered by Derby University.

I have not studied as an apprentice before, however my journey through healthcare has seen me complete several NVQ and QCF qualifications alongside functional skills in maths and English.

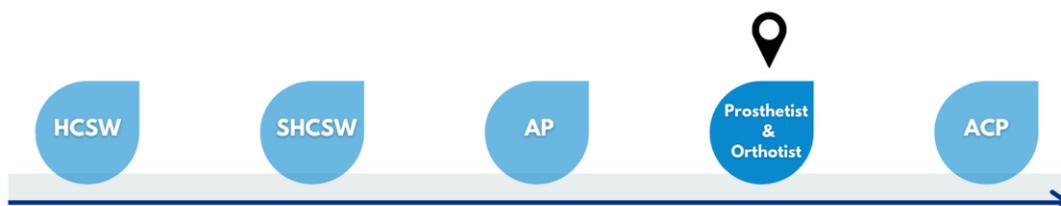
4. What does your job role involve?

Prosthetists provide artificial limbs and Orthotists provide external supports for patients. This can make a huge positive difference to peoples' lives, increasing their mobility, reducing pain, reducing the effects of musculoskeletal injuries and neurological and genetic conditions.

I have worked in many roles within the NHS including portering, health care assistant on the wards and the emergency department, administration and most recently as an Orthopaedic plaster technician.

All these roles have given me the chance to develop all the skills needed to work within the health care environment; communication with the public and patients, dealing with difficult situations, learning a vast array of clinical and administration skills alongside learning how the hospital works generally.

However, the skills learnt as a plaster technician have transferred well to Orthotics as it allows me to cast patients for the production of custom splints.



5. Why did you want to do an apprenticeship?

As a married man with two children and a well-established family tie to my local area as well as financial commitments an apprenticeship was invaluable in enabling me to continue my progression through healthcare to reach my full potential.

The ability to earn as I learn was a great pull but, more importantly, I feel I do not fit the mould as a regular university student. That type of learning does not sit well with me as I much prefer to learn on the job and see my academic knowledge put into practice on a day-to-day basis.

6. What do you want to do once you qualify?

When starting my journey within the NHS as a porter, I never envisaged starting a degree apprenticeship in a department I never would have thought about applying to, or even knew existed, so my plans are to keep on learning and progressing my career.

In the short term I would like to develop my skills in prosthetics and orthotics and increase my skills and knowledge to enable me to progress to a senior clinician and then see where this wonderful journey takes me next.

