



HEALTHCARE SCIENCE ASSISTANT

Key information

Reference: ST0218

Version: 1.1

Level: 2

Typical duration to gateway: 14 months

Typical EPA period: 2 months

Maximum funding: £8000

Route: Health and science

Date updated: 14/02/2024

Approved for delivery: 10 May 2016

Lars code: 99

EQA provider: Ofqual

Example progression routes:

Healthcare science associate

Review: This apprenticeship standard will be reviewed in three years.

Details of the occupational standard

Occupation summary

This occupation is found in hospitals, general practice and other settings in the health sector.

Employers can vary in size from a large national organisation such as the NHS through to a private practice.

Healthcare Science Assistants work in Life Sciences, Physiological Sciences, Physical Sciences, Clinical Engineering, Clinical Bioinformatics in environments such as outpatient departments laboratories and engineering workshops.

Healthcare Science Assistants are part of a wider team contributing to safe patient care across all care pathways from conception to end of life across all areas of healthcare science.

The broad purpose of the occupation is to perform a range of routine technical and scientific procedures whilst in a clinical setting.

Healthcare Science Assistants follow standard operating procedures in order to select and prepare equipment and the environment for healthcare science procedures. They perform healthcare science tasks and tests appropriate to their role. They log, prepare, input and store data.

A Healthcare Science Assistant may also carry out stock control of equipment and consumables.

In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with a wide range of stakeholders including, healthcare science professionals, the wider multi-disciplinary healthcare team, patients and the public. They are likely to report to a Healthcare Science Associate or professional.

An employee in this occupation will be responsible for carrying out clinical, technical, scientific or administrative duties according to standard operating procedures.

They follow specific protocols and adhere to health, safety, governance and ethical requirements.

They are responsible for carrying out a range of delegated activities and solving routine problems using simple rules and tools. They are accountable for their own work performance and are expected to take ownership of their own career and professional development.

Typical job titles include:

Healthcare science assistant

Occupation duties

DUTY	KSBS
Duty 1 Perform a range of routine technical and scientific procedures and services in accordance with standard operating procedures, policies and protocols.	K1 K2 K3 K4 S1 S2 S3 S4 B4 B6
Duty 2 Select and prepare equipment and the environment for healthcare science procedures.	K5 K6 S5 S6 B1 B3 B6
Duty 3 Carry out stock control of healthcare science equipment and consumables.	K7 S7 B4 B6
Duty 4 Support the provision of clinical care delivered to individuals and maintain client confidentiality.	K8 K9 K10 K11 K12 S8 S9 S10 S11 S12 B1 B2 B3 B4
Duty 5 Communicate effectively with individuals.	K13 K14 S13 S14 B1 B2 B3
Duty 6 Record, report and store information adhering to information governance and confidentiality requirements.	K15 K16 K17 S15 S16 S17 B6
Duty 7 Support a multidisciplinary healthcare team.	K18 K19 K20 K21 S18 S19 S20 S21 B1 B3 B4
Duty 8 Maintain a healthy, safe and secure workplace.	K22 K23 K24 K25 K26 S22 S23 S24 S25 S26 S27 B6

Duty 9 Contribute to audit, innovation or research within scope of own role.

K28 K29 K30 K31 K32

S28 S29 S30 S31 S32

B4 B5 B6

Duty 10 Maintain and develop own competence.

K27 K33 K34 K35

S33 S34 S35

B5

KSBs

Knowledge

K1: The legislation, standard operating procedures, codes of conduct and ways of working that apply to own role.

K2: The scope of own role, including the limitations of own competence.

K3: The importance of probity, honesty and integrity in professional practice.

K4: The importance of mental health, wellbeing and resilience.

K5: The scope and range of services within healthcare science used to investigate, diagnose and treat disease.

K6: The evidence base that underpins technical practice relevant to own role.

K7: Stock and equipment management relevant to own role.

K8: The principles of person-centred care.

K9: The meaning and importance of 'duty of care' and safeguarding.

K10: The rights of individuals and own role with regard to giving informed consent.

K11: The principles that underpin dignity, rights and privacy.

K12: The importance of individuals being actively involved in making informed choices about their care.

K13: How to explain technical terms in language others can understand.

K14: Barriers to communication and techniques for addressing them.

K15: The importance of information governance and confidentiality.

K16: The importance of accurate data and processes including digital considerations.

K17: The policy or procedure for complaints and difficult situations.

K18: The importance of working within the multi-professional team and how healthcare science impacts on the wider delivery of services.

K19: Where to go for help and support.

K20: The principles of leadership, role modelling and how it applies to own role and that of others in the team.

K21: The importance of being aware of own strengths, limitations and behaviours and how these affect colleagues and the wider team.

K22: Legislation and policies relating to health and safety at work and own responsibilities.

K23: The meaning and implications of 'risk' and 'risk assessment'.

K24: What to do in situations that could cause harm to self or others such as critical incidents.

K25: The principles of safe lifting and handling of individuals, equipment or other items.

K26: Infection prevention and control requirements relevant to own role.

K27: How to handle hazardous materials and substances.

K28: The quality procedures and improvement protocols and regulations relevant to own role.

K29: The audit cycle relevant to own role and how audit contributes to the maintenance and improvement of services.

K30: The importance of delivering high quality service outcomes and continuous improvements (including sustainability) to benefit individuals and health services.

K31: The regulatory framework that innovation or research is conducted, including research ethics and the implications for own role.

K32: The importance of service improvement, innovation or research.

K33: Reflective behaviours and the benefits of self-reflection in helping maintain and support the quality of patient care.

K34: The role of appraisal and performance review.

K35: How to prepare for and develop an action plan as part of performance review.

Skills

S1: Act in line with legislation, standard operating procedures, codes of conduct and ways of working that apply to own role.

S2: Work within the scope of the role, the limits of own knowledge and skills.

S3: Act in line with probity requirements.

S4: Promote own mental health, wellbeing and resilience.

- S5:** Provide general information, advice and guidance about the scope and range of services relevant to role.
- S6:** Provide technical evidence-based advice, information and guidance relevant to role.
- S7:** Adhere to stock and equipment control policies.
- S8:** Support the provision of person-centred care that is delivered by the wider healthcare team.
- S9:** Support any care provided including adhering to the relevant requirements.
- S10:** Follow policy and protocols that relate to informed consent.
- S11:** Protect the dignity, rights and privacy of individuals.
- S12:** Assist the wider healthcare team to enable individuals to make choices about their care.
- S13:** Communicate basic information effectively verbally and in writing.
- S14:** Use techniques to facilitate understanding and reduce communication barriers.
- S15:** Keep accurate, confidential records including in a digital format.
- S16:** Produce reliable data by logging, inputting, retrieving and storing information within required governance processes.
- S17:** Follow protocols for handling, escalating or reporting difficult situations and complaints.
- S18:** Work as part of the healthcare science team and the multi-professional team to provide healthcare science services.
- S19:** Follow delegation, reporting and escalation protocols appropriate to own role.
- S20:** Act as a role model to others and show leadership skills relevant to own role.
- S21:** Contribute towards creating the conditions that assist the team in providing a supportive environment for colleagues.
- S22:** Work safely in the workplace following safety guidelines.
- S23:** Contribute to the risk management process in own workplace adhering to risk management guidelines.
- S24:** Take appropriate action in response to incidents or emergencies.
- S25:** Move and transport items safely for example individuals or equipment and items.
- S26:** Apply a range of techniques for infection prevention and control.
- S27:** Follow guidelines and procedures for handling hazardous materials and substances.
- S28:** Follow procedures and improvement protocols to meet the requirements of quality standards relevant to own healthcare science practice.

S29: Contribute to the audit process relevant to own role.

S30: Offer suggestions for improving services, emerging practices and sustainability.

S31: Work in accordance with the regulatory frameworks for ethics, innovation or research relevant to own role.

S32: Assist service improvement, innovation or research within the boundaries of own clinical and scientific practice.

S33: Reflect on own practice and keep own knowledge and skills up-to-date.

S34: Take part in appraisal or performance review and ongoing continuing professional development.

S35: Reply constructively to the outcome of feedback, performance review or appraisal.

Behaviours

B1: Treat people with dignity.

B2: Champion equality and diversity.

B3: Show compassion, respect and empathy.

B4: Be honest, conscientious and committed.

B5: Committed to continuously developing their own professional practice.

B6: Committed to working to the standards of good practice for the Healthcare science professions.

Qualifications

English and Maths

English and maths qualifications form a mandatory part of all apprenticeships and must be completed before an apprentice can pass through gateway. The requirements are detailed in the current version of the apprenticeship funding rules.

Other mandatory qualifications

Level 2 Diploma in Healthcare Science (603/0626/9)

Level: 2

Ofqual regulated

Professional recognition

This standard aligns with the following professional recognition:

- Academy for Healthcare Science for Healthcare Science Assistant Register (non-accredited)

Version log

Version	Change detail	Earliest start date	Latest start date	Latest end date
1.1	Occupational standard, end-point assessment plan and funding band revised.	01/02/2024	Not set	Not set
1.0	Approved for delivery	10/05/2016	31/01/2024	Not set

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