

Assistant Practitioner Role

Acute Surgical Ward

The Assistant Practitioner (AP) role refers to a band 4 or equivalent practitioner working within a health and social care setting who undertakes more advanced and complex skills and procedures beyond that of a traditional support worker.

The role can be developed to meet the needs of the service by working within agreed protocols to enable the AP to perform tasks previously only within the remit of registered practitioners.

The AP role is clearly identified within Agenda for Change and Skills for Health Career Framework which supports the development of building capacity and capability within the area.

The AP works alongside a Registered Nurse (RN) to provide streamlined, high quality care to elective and emergency surgical patients.

The AP will take responsibility for a group of patients with support of a RN and carries out skills that can include, but are not limited to initial assessments and admissions, cannulation, catheterisation, wound care, nasogastric (NG) drain care and removal, NG tube insertion and care, pre and post op care including collecting from theatre, physiotherapy and health promotion.

The AP has the knowledge and skills to know when to alert colleagues to any deviations or emergencies. Part of the role involves responsibility for specifically delegated aspects of a patient's care. This may be contribution to risk assessments or care plans and liaisons with other services the patient requires as part of their care. The role may also involve work across the organisation perhaps transfer to other wards and managing follow up appointments. Preparation for examination is also part of the role, in addition to liaison with other colleagues to facilitate discharge planning.