

Assistant Practitioner Role

District Nursing

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 role within District Nursing has been developed to enable the delivery of higher level skills in specific aspects of care.

Key skills include:

- Contenance care including catheterisation
- Responsibility of a case load of patients
- Digital rectal examination & suppository administration
- Diabetic screening
- Health Promotion
- Immunisations and Vaccinations
- Injections (under Patient Specific Directives)
- Venepuncture
- Spirometry
- Wound Care
- Compression therapy / Doppler scans.
- Management of Long Term Conditions
- Stoma Care

The AP is able to carry out these extended skills at a more advanced level due to the underpinning knowledge and theory they gain whilst on the Foundation Degree. The AP role complements the role of the registered practitioner by enabling them to focus on individuals with higher complex needs.