

Assistant Practitioner Role

Occupational Therapy Stroke Rehabilitation Unit

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 employed in a stroke rehabilitation unit compliments the multi-disciplinary team. The AP works closely with the Occupational Therapist. The unit has a high turnover of patients and is highly demanding. The AP is involved in delivering the clients treatment plan to facilitate recovery and improve quality of life. In addition, the AP organises a communication group and works within the speech and language therapy team.

The AP carries out a range of programmes of therapy and supports the client to redevelop lost skills to find new ways of performing essential everyday tasks. The AP may participate in the ongoing assessment and progress of clients. The AP may be involved on the ward and after discharge in the home environment. Linking with other services to ensure the necessary aids and support mechanisms are in place for the client to be discharged may also part of the AP role.