

Assistant Practitioner Role

Radiography

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 in Radiography has been developed to include higher level skills in specific aspects of care. An AP in Radiography can undertake routine imaging; perform x-rays of the spine, abdomen and extremities, as well as dental X-rays and x-ray of pathology specimens.

The AP ensures the image is of the best diagnostic quality by positioning the patient correctly and selecting the correct exposure factors.. In addition, the AP would carry out safety checks such as clarifying pregnancy status and putting the patient at ease. The AP would be competent to check their own work and raise any concerns. The APs underpinning competence would enable them to deal effectively with a range of situations including A&E and patients with limited mobility.

The AP may assist the chief and senior radiographers at fluoroscopy sessions, including barium studies, venograms and sialograms (imaging of the veins and salivary glands). The AP would offer dietary advice after barium studies. The AP would ensure that the correct clinical equipment is available for each procedure, case notes are to hand and patients are seen on time.