

Assistant Practitioner Role

Theatre Scrub Role

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 Theatre compliments the work of the perioperative team working with surgeons, anaesthetists and registered practitioner. The AP assists the patient care during surgery by supporting the multidisciplinary team in the perioperative care of the patient and also in a scrub role. They AP provides skilled assistance to the surgeon in the operating theatre during surgery and within the sterile field. Other duties include:

- Skin preparation
- Application of dressings
- Catheterisation
- Cutting of superficial sutures
- Skin retraction
- Assist with superficial wound closure