

Evidence Brief: Operating Department Practitioners (ODP)

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Produced by the HEE Knowledge Management team Evidence Briefs offer a quick overview of the published reports, research, and evidence on a workforce-related topic.

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Key publications – the big picture

[The Allied Health Professions \(AHPs\) Strategy for England](#), NHS England, 2022

This strategy is a catalyst for change. Wherever you work, every member of our AHP community has a part in realising our collective ambitions through its delivery. I therefore encourage you to take a moment to consider how the AHP community can enable the change required to deliver future care today.

[History of the College of Operating Department Practitioners and the ODP Profession](#), 2021 College of Operating Department Practitioners

No history of the College would be complete without a brief look at the history of Operating Department Practitioners ourselves. The fact that ODPs as a group were not a creation of the Lewin report 1 of 1970, where the title Operating Department Assistant (ODA) was first coined. Indeed, ODPs can claim a lineage that pre-dates not only anaesthesia but also organised operating theatres.

[A Vision: The College of Operating Department Practitioners and CPOC](#), 2021 Centre for Perioperative Care

The ODP role has evolved significantly and includes increased practice outside the operating theatre environment and as such the scope of ODP practice encompasses the totality of the patient pathway and ODPs routinely practice within pre-assessment, admissions units and post-operative care, including critical care units.

[Operating department practitioners: the unsung heroes of the COVID-19 crisis](#), Birmingham University

ODPs are the only professionals trained specifically to care for patients in the operating theatre.

They provide essential care to patients throughout the entire surgery pathway, including during anaesthetics, surgery and in recovery, but the pandemic has seen them re-deployed to help care for coronavirus patients in intensive care units.

[Our Action Plan for England: A New Deal](#), Royal College of Surgeons

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on NHS surgical services in England. All elective (planned) surgery was cancelled in the first wave and many surgical teams were redeployed to help treat COVID-19 patients. Latest figures show the largest ever recorded NHS waiting list in England of 4.95 million people, including more than 430,000 waiting over a year. In addition, there is a 'hidden waiting list' of people who have not yet come forward or who have not yet been referred for hospital treatment. Estimates vary, but could mean the waiting list growing to a figure of 9.7 million by 2023/24.

[Perioperative care in adults](#), 2020 NICE Safety management systems aim to mitigate risk for patients undergoing invasive procedures. They do this by highlighting safe practice. They are particularly beneficial in pressured environments to ensure all integral aspects of care are considered. The World Health Organisation (WHO) safety checklist is the commonly used operative safety management system in the United Kingdom.

Case Studies

[AHP/HCPC Return to Practice Where are they now? Lolly Trehern, Operating Department Practitioner](#)

Once I had finished my return to practice hours, I sent off my forms to the Health and Care Professions Council and was back on the register in about a week. It felt so good to be able to start in a permanent role straight away and as an extra bonus

the Trust gave me a retrospective payment for the hours I had done whilst completing my updating.

[A case study of a collaborative allied health and nursing crisis response, 2020 Abstract only*](#)

Using an evaluative case study, a unique insight into the collaborative allied health and nursing professions' response to COVID-19 at a specialist cardiothoracic hospital in the United Kingdom is presented.

HEE Star

More resources and tools are available in the AHP Quick Reference Guides Upskilling section of the [HEE Star](#). Alternatively, search for 'Allied Health' in the search bar.

Statistics

[HCPC Diversity Data Report 2021: operating department practitioners](#)

This factsheet provides the key EDI information for the operating department practitioners and how the demographics of this group compare to the demographics of HCPC registrants overall.

[Statistics for the 2018-2020 renewal cycle CPD audit](#)

A total of 363 operating department practitioners were asked to present their CPD profile for the 2018-2020 renewal/CPD cycle.

HEE National Data Programme

HEE staff can look at the [National Data Warehouse \(NDL\)](#) SharePoint site to find out more about datasets and Tableau products.

Published Peer Reviewed Research

Leadership, coaching and education

[The Theatre Training Checklist: A Toolkit to Improve Operative Training, 2022](#)

The Theatre Training Checklist is a simple framework that aims to facilitate awareness, understanding, coordination and cooperation of training for all team members. It is a practical strategy that can be adopted in any setting.

[Standards for Supporting Pre-Registration Operating Department Practitioner Education in Practice Placements, 2021](#)

The purpose of this document is to define the College of Operating Department Practitioners (CODP) standards for supporting those learners in practice placements, who are undertaking a pre-registration programme that permits eligibility to apply for statutory registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) as an Operating Department Practitioner (ODP).

[Use of in situ simulation to evaluate the operational readiness of a high-consequence infectious disease intensive care unit, 2021 Abstract only*](#)

We recommend that staff working in clinical areas expected to receive patients with COVID-19 conduct in-situ simulation in order to detect their own unique risks and aid in the creation of local guidelines of management of patients with COVID-19.

[A qualitative study exploring experiences and challenges of combining clinical academic training with family life](#), 2021

Although people manage to find ways to successfully combine clinical academic roles with family life, findings highlight a need to identify ways of supporting and encouraging trainees with caring responsibilities to ensure that they remain on the clinical academic pathway.

[Who Coaches the Coaches? The Development of a Coaching Model for Experiential Learning](#), 2021

We recommend practices for coaching that can support gains for students and faculty in experiential, project-based, interdisciplinary courses.

[Simulation-guided preparations for the management of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases in the obstetric emergency theater](#), 2020 *Abstract only**

The key changes were: first, floor plan adjustment, increase of the clinical area by converting some offices to clinical spaces, and standard operating procedures for transporting patients; second, enhancement of the efficiency of the communication and coordination between the clinical teams; third, availability of extra support for the staff in the Central Delivery Suite (CDS); and fourth, introduction of a neonatal care pathway to manage neonatal resuscitation in such an emergency.

Community, primary, secondary and tertiary care

[The Royal Navy Operating Department Practitioner: Perioperative care on land and sea](#), 2020 *Abstract only**

This article will explore the different avenues and experiences of Operating Department Practitioners who are currently serving in the Royal Navy. The reader will then also gain an insight into the different echelons of care provided by the Defence Medical Services to the United Kingdom Armed Forces and Allied Nations.

[The evolving roles of Operating Department Practitioners in contemporary healthcare: A service evaluation](#), 2019

The study provides evidence of the development in the roles of the Operating Department Practitioner and suggests that Operating Department Practitioners offer an eclectic mix of skills which are delivered in a variety of clinical settings.

[Unity of modern-day theatre professions](#), 2019

No abstract available.*

[Operating department practitioners and midwives: The undervalued obstetric care collaboration](#), 2018

The aim is to demonstrate areas for improvement and make recommendations highlighting the need for inclusive education and learning in perioperative obstetric care.

[Advanced clinical practitioners in emergency care: past, present and future](#), 2018 *Abstract only**

Advanced practice has developed in the UK in many specialties and the new advanced practice framework from Health Education England (2017) allows a cross-discipline understanding of the principles and key aspects of advanced practice.

[Operating department practitioners care of the patient with diabetes in the perioperative period](#), 2017 *Abstract only**

This article describes the pathophysiology of DM and the management of the condition, particularly type 1 and type 2, in the perioperative phase of the surgical patient journey.

[Team working in airway crisis: role of operating department practitioner in management of failed intubations](#), 2016 *Abstract only**

I would like to present a protocol originally developed for ODPs7 that dovetails with the Difficult Airway Guidelines, named Co-PILOT (Co, Confirm failure; P, Propose other equipment; I, Immediate senior anaesthetic assistance to be called; L, Laryngeal mask airway (second generation); O, Oxygenate; and T, Tracheal access.

[Can Gestural Language Enhance Communication Between Surgeons and Operating Department Practitioners?](#) 2015 *Abstract only**

See link for partial access.

Role progression and development

[Enablers and barriers to progressing a clinical academic career in nursing, midwifery and allied health professions: A cross-sectional survey](#), 2022 *Abstract only**

Nearly three quarters pursuing a clinical academic career indicated 'clearer career paths' and 'greater integration across clinical and academic departments' were desirable. Most common barriers related to research roles, availability of positions and funding.

[Assessment of advanced clinical practitioners](#), 2022 *Abstract only**

The insights from this study enabled lessons to be drawn for those responsible for workforce development who are key to

the future development of the ACP role and to ensure high standards of interprofessional care.

[Characterising the outcomes, impacts and implementation challenges of advanced clinical practice roles in the UK: a scoping review](#), 2021

This review suggests a need for educational and role standardisation and a supported career pathway for advanced clinical practitioners (ACPs) in the UK. Future research should: (i) adopt more robust study designs, (ii) investigate the full scope of the ACP role and (iii) include a wider range of professions and sectors.

[Capitalising on the transformational opportunities of early clinical academic career training for nurses, midwives and allied health professionals](#), 2020

The findings suggest that individuals, funders, and organisations may need to relinquish the notion that training is purely or largely a transactional exchange in order to establish collaborative initiatives.

[Relationship between labour force satisfaction, wages and retention within the UK National Health Service: a systematic review of the literature](#), 2020

Pay was found to influence satisfaction, which in turn affected retention. An increase in wages alone is unlikely to be sufficient to ameliorate the concerns of NHS workers.

[Developing a consolidated research framework for clinical allied health professionals practising in the UK](#), 2020

The consolidated framework was entitled 'Shaping Better Practice Through Research: A Practitioner Framework' by stakeholders, thus emphasising its ambition to embed research activity into practice.

[Career Opportunities for Theatre Practitioners](#), 2017 *Abstract only**

Career opportunities and education go hand in hand together, and so it is difficult to discuss one without mentioning the other to some degree. We need education to access career opportunities, but we also need career routes to help drive education forward.

[The role of the operating department practitioner on board Role 2 Afloat](#), 2017 *Abstract only**

The Role 2 Afloat (R2A) is the Royal Navy (RN)'s Damage Control Resuscitation (DCR), including Damage Control Surgery, capability at sea. There are currently three operating department practitioners (ODP) in the deployed team. This article describes the role of the ODP in this team and the training which is required to fulfil this role.

Workforce perspectives and mental health

[Joining the workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic: views of Allied Health Profession students](#), 2022 *Abstract only**

Although the transition from student to practitioner continues to be a stressful period, only a minority of participants reported COVID-19 as an explicit stressor.

[Wellbeing and coping of UK nurses, midwives and allied health professionals during COVID-19-a cross-sectional study](#), 2022 *Abstract only**

This workforce would benefit from additional support/services to prevent further deterioration in mental health and wellbeing and optimise workforce retention.

[A review of Operating Department Practitioner students' experiences of clinical placements as a result of changing organisations in each academic year](#), 2019 *Abstract only**

The review resulted in students being placed in a different organisation in each year of their course. A qualitative methodology in the form of focus groups was employed to review students' views of the change and their clinical experiences.

[Belongingness: Student ODPs' learning experiences in clinical placements](#), 2018 *Abstract only**

This study provides qualitative data to help understand how belongingness can positively or negatively affect the learning experiences of student ODPs in clinical placements.

[Preregistration Students' Reactions to Simulation as an Education Approach Within an Operating Department Practitioner Curriculum—A Qualitative Review](#), 2016 *Abstract only**

ODP students responded positively to simulated learning strategies with emphasis to increase the frequency and their exposure to normalize simulated assessment. It is essential, however, to ensure simulation has clinical relevance and authenticity.

Diversity and inclusion

[“Raising the curtain on the equality theatre”: a study of recruitment to first healthcare job post-qualification in the UK National Health Service](#), 2022

The Healthcare Workforce Equity + Diversity Lens we have developed can help to 'raise the curtain on the equality theatre' and inform more inclusive approaches to recruitment such as contextualised recruitment or effective allyship between employers and universities.

Competency Frameworks

[The standards of proficiency for operating department practitioners](#), HCPC

In August 2022, we updated our standards of proficiency for the first time since 2015. The changes, which will come into effect on 1 September 2023, have been made following an extensive period of engagement with a wide range of stakeholders.

[Development of a digital competency framework for UK Allied Health Professionals](#), 2020

This framework has been developed to support the enhancement of digital competence (knowledge and skills associated with digital technology in practice) for all allied health professions from band 3 to band 9. It is intended to be a developmental and supportive tool that can enable all staff to meet their digital potential.

*Help accessing articles or papers

Where a report/ journal article or resource is freely available the link has been provided. If an NHS OpenAthens account is required this has been indicated. It has also been highlighted if only the abstract is available. If you do not have an OpenAthens account you can self-register here.

If you need help accessing an article, or have any other questions, contact the Knowledge Management team for support KnowledgeManagement@hee.nhs.uk