

Assistant Practitioner Role

Mental Health Services

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 Mental Health Services has been developed to enable the delivery of higher level skills in specific aspects of care.

Key skills include:

Memory services	Care navigation
Early intervention team	Cognitive behavioural therapy
Physical health checks	Clozaril clinics
Depo provera injections	Early discharge planning
Referral to other services	Staff training for early discharge toolkit

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