

# Assistant Practitioner Role

## Stroke Practitioner

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 works alongside the stroke specialist consultant and nurse supporting the assessment process. The AP role is mainly set within the A&E department to enable the initial assessment of a patient admitted with stroke or suspected stroke.

The AP role includes:

- Arrange/perform baseline tests and ensure completion as appropriate
- Clinical skills phlebotomy, cannulation, clinical observations, nasogastric tube insertion, referrals, patient/relative/carer education, physiotherapy/occupational therapy support
- Assist in the admission, transfer and discharge process including decision making around preferred place of care and the rehabilitation process
- Support/educate the multidisciplinary team within the stroke unit around individual care plans