

**HULL UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS TRUST
JOB DESCRIPTION**

JOB TITLE: **Highly Specialist Cardiac Physiologist In Echocardiography**

BAND: **Band 7**

REPORTS TO: **Principal Cardiac Clinical Physiologist**

JOB SUMMARY:

- To support the Echocardiography Service at HUTH by providing a high standard of work within Echocardiography that meets organizational, professional and individual needs
- To perform routine and complex diagnostic transthoracic echocardiograms in accordance with the British Society of Echocardiography, local and national guidelines.
- To produce accurate comprehensive clinical reports that can be clearly understood by a physician not experienced in Echocardiography
- Undertakes a range of other highly advanced cardiac diagnostic tests and procedures. Interprets test results and provides accurate factual reports for clinicians.
- Provides highly specialist education and training for other Physiologists and other healthcare professionals within this field, enabling staff to develop the clinical skills and competencies required to deliver a high quality diagnostic Echo service that is responsive to changing needs.
- Has a designated area of specialism within non-invasive cardiology.
- To participate in research and other CPD activities to maintain own competencies
- To be flexible in the way they work to ensuring the running and safe delivery of the service responding to internal and external forces.
- Produces reports from non-accredited Physiologists
- Participates in weekend working

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

Communication & Relationship Skills

- Receives and communicates highly complex and sensitive information during cardiac procedures and responds appropriately.
- Is able to manage own workload and adapt to change within the Echocardiography environment.
- Skill and experience to communicate highly complex specialist information in clinical reports for the diagnosis and treatment of cardiac abnormalities.
- Has highly developed communication skills, explaining test procedures in an appropriate manner to patients and relatives.
- Communicates complex and sensitive information to patients where tact, reassurance and empathy are paramount.

- Promotes an environment conducive to high patient and staff morale achieved by professional standards and leadership.

Knowledge, Training & Experience

- Theoretical and practical training to Cardiac Clinical Physiology degree level or equivalent with appropriate work experience.
- Training and experience to a level approved by the RCCP for State Registration of Cardiac Physiologists.
- Highly developed specialist expertise gained through Professional Registration with the British Society of Echocardiography accreditation examination required to fulfill an Advanced Practitioner role.
- Highly developed level of knowledge and skill in cardiac ultrasound theory and practice in order to satisfy the Trust's requirement for assessment by the Clinical lead in Diagnostic Imaging for competency to perform and report patient studies.
- In depth post registration experience and theoretical knowledge to Master's level equivalent acquired from extensive, advanced, specialist and accredited courses.
- Advanced knowledge and skills for the accurate interpretation of complex clinical requests in order to give relevant and appropriate reports.
- Holds a current ILS certificate and is able to defibrillate and resuscitate patients without supervision.

Analytical & Judgement Skills

- Analyzes and interprets ambulatory ECG and BP recordings, providing accurate documentation and factual report to assist with clinical diagnosis.
- Analyzes complex intra cardiac pressures during invasive procedures, informing clinicians of any changes or abnormalities.
- Undertakes physiologist lead exercise tolerance testing, following established national and local policies/procedures. Interprets test results and provides an accurate factual report.
- Provides in depth reports on cardiac ultrasounds performed personally and those from other non-accredited physiologists. Making comparisons to previous cardiac ultrasound findings.
- Ability, knowledge and experience to make complex decisions and take appropriate action e.g. referring patients appropriately in an acute situation to an appropriate physician.
- Makes judgments and decisions based upon a range of complex facts which require analysis and interpretation.

Planning & Organisational Skills

- Plans and manages activity workload for themselves and others.
- Possesses highly developed sensory skills and co-ordination essential for the accurate use of complex diagnostic equipment and for the rapid response essential during complex cardiac testing where emergency action/resuscitation may be required.

Physical Skills

- The post requires highly developed physical skills where a high degree of precision and hand eye coordination are essential

RESPONSIBILITY**Responsibilities for Patient/Client Care**

- Undertakes a wide range of cardiac diagnostic tests, including specialist cardiac clinical physiological tests and procedures performed in a tertiary cardiac center.
- Performs highly complex cardiac ultrasound examinations without direct supervision.
- Produces complex, specialist clinical reports on cardiac ultrasound scans (echocardiograms) for all specialties for the diagnosis and treatment of cardiac abnormalities.
- Produces reports from non-accredited Physiologists
- Assists with invasive cardiac ultrasound examinations (Trans Oesophageal Echocardiogram).
- Assists with Stress echocardiography.

Responsibilities for Policy & Service Development Implementation

- Ensures all local and national policies are adhered to.
- Actively contributes to the development of service protocols relating to their specialist area.
- In depth knowledge of national and local policies/protocols relating to their specialist area.

Responsibilities for Financial & Physical Resources

- Regularly monitors stock levels and takes responsibility for the ordering of consumable stock.
- Uses specialist testing equipment on a daily basis, checking appropriate function and reporting faults appropriately.

Responsibilities for Human Resources

- Responsible for continued personal, professional development as required for continued professional registration/accreditation with the British Society of Echocardiography.
- Provides professional training/supervision to junior staff and other healthcare professionals.
- Assists with regular staff appraisals, contributing to the professional development of staff to ensure a high quality service.
- Prioritises own work and that of junior staff working with them on a daily basis. Allocates work to other staff within their area.
- Participates in weekend working.

Responsibilities for Information Resources

- Ensures ultrasound reports are accurately recorded and the results stored on the Cardiology database.
- Documents test results into a computerized system.

Responsibilities for Research & Development

- Participates in national and local research projects and departmental audit.
- Regularly undertakes clinical trials

Freedom to Act

- Expected results are defined but the post holder decides how best they are achieved and is guided by principles and broad occupational policies or regulations. Guidance may be provided by peers or external reference points.

EFFORT & ENVIRONMENT

Physical Effort

- Frequent physical effort required to manoeuvre and position cardiac diagnostic testing equipment.
- Appropriate positioning of patients and equipment to ensure accurate testing.
- Frequent exposure to difficult working conditions; sitting/standing in a restricted position for long periods of time in a darkened room.
- Frequently standing for long periods of time wearing a lead apron.

Mental Effort

- Frequent, prolonged periods of intense concentration during cardiac testing and reporting.

Emotional Effort

- Frequent exposure to distressing, traumatic, emotional and medical conditions during cardiac testing/scanning and whilst participating in the out of hours emergency on call rota.
- Occasionally required to be directly involved in the resuscitation of patients during cardiac testing.

Working Conditions

- Frequent exposure to radiation during non-invasive and invasive testing.
- Frequent exposure to high risk patients, body odours and body fluids, particularly blood during invasive procedures.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

In addition to the Trust's overall responsibility for your health and safety you have a personal responsibility for your own health and safety. As such you are required to inform your line manager of any safety issues that you identify that could affect you or others in the workplace. You must co-operate with management and colleagues at all times in achieving safer work processes and work places, particularly where it can impact on others.

As a Trust employee you will be trained in the correct use of any equipment provided to improve safety and health within the Trust. You are required to use the equipment when

necessary and as instructed which will include checking the equipment is safe to use, prior to its use and must report any defects immediately to your line manager.

INFECTION CONTROL

In addition to the Trust's overall responsibilities under The Health and Social Care Act 2008 Code of Practice for healthcare, including primary and adult social care on the prevention and control of infections (revised December 2010) for your safety, you have a personal responsibility to ensure your work adheres to this Code in the delivery of safe patient care within the organisation. This code relates to ALL Trust staff and contractors working within the organisation who are employed to ensure this level of care is provided.

As an employee you will be trained to ensure adherence and compliance to the various Infection Control policies within the Trust.

This job description is not meant to be exhaustive. It describes the main duties and responsibilities of the post. It may be subject to change in the light of developing organisational and service needs and wherever possible change will follow consultation with the post holder.