

Job description

Position	Audiologist
Grade	Band 5
Location	Audiology Department (based at St Margaret's Hospital, Epping)
Hours	37.5 hours per week
Responsible to	Clinical Lead
Accountable to	Head of Audiology

Our Organisation

The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust (PAHT) provides a full range of general acute, outpatient and diagnostic services at The Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow, the Herts and Essex Hospital in Bishop's Stortford, and St Margaret's Hospital in Epping.

We employ 3,500 staff and serve a local population of around 350,000 people living in west Essex and east Hertfordshire, centred on the M11 corridor and the towns of Harlow, Bishop's Stortford and Epping. Our extended catchment area incorporates a population of up to 500,000 and includes the areas of Hoddesdon, Cheshunt and Broxbourne in Hertfordshire.

Our Values

The Princess Alexandra Promise to our patients as identified by our 3 values which will contribute to improving our patient experiences:

Patient at heart – Always holding the patient and their wellbeing at the centre of our thoughts and efforts

Everyday excellence – Sharing and celebrating our successes, being honest when we get it wrong, giving us the ability to learn from both

Creative collaboration – Knowing strength comes from diversity, we combine our experiences, skills and talents, working together to find new and better ways to care

The Trust believes in investing in all our staff and rewarding high standards of care whilst building for excellence and in return we expect our staff to uphold the Trust values to the highest level.



Job summary

The Audiologist works in a range of settings with patients suffering from hearing difficulties, their family and other carers, undertakes diagnostic investigations of hearing for both adults and children where highly accurate results are vital, and works with patients to fit and verify hearing aid prescription, formulate individual treatment plans and provide ongoing care, advice and support to adults with mild to moderate or profound hearing difficulties.

Scope and range

Internally

Often working independently, you will work with Senior Audiologists and the Audiology Manager and Deputy Manager when you require support, and offer support and guidance to the Band 4 Assistant Audiologist and the PTP Trainees.

Externally

You may have to contact other departments in the Hospital including the Ear, Nose and Throat Department, Central Appointments, the Speech and Language team and other Audiology departments.

Duties and responsibilities

- Perform otoscopic examination of the ear canal to assess the condition of the external ear and eardrum. Recognise contra-indications to further treatment (e.g. perforation, discharge, blood and/or excessive wax) and refer to the appropriate professional when necessary e.g. ENT staff, GP Senior Audiologist, Nurse Practitioner etc
- Assess the hearing of adults and children over the age of 5 using a range of specialised diagnostic tests, including: Pure Tone Audiometry, Acoustic Admittance Measurements, Acoustic Reflex Measurements and Speech Audiometry, Oto-Acoustic Emissions.
- Obtain aural impressions on adults and children for the purpose of ear moulds or custom made earplugs.
- Select appropriate hearing aids using Patient Management System considering hearing aid specifications and outcome measures to suit individual patient needs.
- Programme selected digital hearing aid using computerised system and hearing aid software and fit hearing aid and mould to patient.
- Verify selection and fitting of hearing aid using Real Ear Measurements
- Complete validated outcome measures to obtain a qualitative assessment of hearing disability and handicap using Glasgow Hearing Benefit Profile and Glasgow Hearing aid Difference profile or COSI.



- Using drill, buffer and grinding equipment, modify patient's ear moulds to facilitate comfort of fit and/or modify to change acoustic parameters
- Regularly review patients progress with the hearing aid and analyse need for modification of hearing aid programme and/or further rehabilitation, advice and counselling
- Fit custom made ear plugs for adults and children and instruct patients or their carers on effective use and maintenance
- Provide a one-stop Hearing Aid Repair Service, using analytical and diagnostic skills to formulate individual solutions to non-routine hearing aid problems.
- Recognise when a medical history or test results require onward referral to Senior Audiologist or ENT Medical Staff
- Analyse and interpret diagnostic test results to formulate an individual treatment plan
- Undertake home visits to housebound patients to provide a full range of audiological services where access to patients in a domestic setting may be restricted
- Undertake visits to in-patients who have been identified by ward staff as having hearing problems, providing the appropriate audiological services at the bedside
- Assist with paediatric audiology and hearing aid clinics
- Perform evening and weekend clinics as required (though we currently do not work evenings or weekends unless overtime is required).

This job description may be subject to change according to the varying needs of the service. Such changes will be made after discussion between the post holder and the manager. All duties must be carried out under supervision or within Trust policy and procedure.



Person specification

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Evidence for suitability in the role will be measured via a mixture of application form, testing and interview. Essential: E Desirable: D

Trust values	
Patient at heart – Always holding the patient and their wellbeing at the centre of our thoughts and efforts	E
Everyday excellence – Sharing and celebrating our successes, being honest when we get it wrong, giving us the ability to learn from both	E
Creative collaboration – Knowing strength comes from diversity, we combine our experiences, skills and talents, working together to find new and better ways to care	E

Education and qualifications	
A Recognised qualification in Audiology (BSc, MSc, PTP, STP, BAAT, PgDip Aud,) or equivalent experience	E

Skills and knowledge	
Able to perform a variety of Diagnostic Audiological testing and fit and verify hearing aids.	E
Competent and confident to assist and supervise junior members of staff	E
Good dexterity and hand-eye co-ordination	E
Ability to keep accurate computerised patient notes	E

Personal qualities	
Excellent interpersonal and communication skills (written and oral)	E
Clear spoken English	E
Able to accurately follow written instructions	E
Ability to work independently	E
Holder of Full UK Driving Licence	D