

Job Title	Trainee Echocardiographer		
Agenda for Change Band	6	Budgetary responsibility	Responsible for safe use of expensive equipment
Date reviewed	12/03/2024	Management responsibility	Trains new staff in own role

Job Summary

- a) In conjunction with and supported by their designated Training Officer, the Trainee Echocardiographer will be responsible for their own progression through the training programme, for completing the learning outcomes as outlined in their curriculum (detailed in the Curriculum Library) progressing through a mixture of work-based training activities and assessments and experiences in NHS scientific departments and undertaking the complementary academic Post graduate certificate in Clinical Echocardiography and preparing for and completing the BSE Transthoracic Accreditation process
- b) At all times the Trainee Healthcare Scientist is expected to work within standard operating policies and procedures of the host department and NHS organisation and adhere to high standards of professionalism, health and safety, risk reduction, confidentiality, patient care and dignity, and respect for equality and diversity as set out in the NHS Constitution.
- c) The Trainee Healthcare Scientist will be employed by the host department for a fixed term of 18 months, during which time they will work through a full-time programme combining work-based learning and a part-time academic programme at Post Graduate level.
- d) The post holder will follow the curriculum as detailed on the National School of Healthcare Science website.
- e) The trainee will undertake the full training programme in order to progress through the modules of the training scheme. In so doing they will learn how to perform and interpret clinical and specialist scientific processes underpinned by theoretical and applied knowledge and practical experience and will learn how to:
 - f) Carry out complex scientific and clinical roles, including those working directly with patients.
 - g) Perform specialised diagnostic investigations.
 - h) Analyse, interpret and compare investigative and clinical options.
 - i) Make judgements, including clinical and differential judgements, involving complicated facts or situations that impact on patients.
 - j) Initiate and undertake innovation, improvement and R&D and be involved in the education of healthcare science trainees and other learners in the workplace.
 - k) They will be expected to complete all work-based training and assessment alongside the academic course to exit the programme with eligibility for registration with the the BSE and the Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS). Trainees must meet the AHCS Standards of proficiency for Healthcare Science Practitioners.
 - l) They will be expected to undertake work-based experience to enable them to communicate complex technical, scientific and sensitive information to colleagues within their department in both verbal and written forms.

General Duties

Scientific and clinical practice

1. Undertake a range of clinical and scientific investigations as appropriate to the role. These may include the processing of blood and other samples, direct clinical measurements on patients, and procedures involving ionising and non-ionising radiation.

2. Acquire and maintain a high level of professional competence in the performance of all tests, investigations and measurements carried out.
3. Interpret and act upon results of tests, investigations and measurements in accordance with departmental policies, procedures and quality systems.
4. Comment and advise on new proposals and protocols, especially for service improvements.
5. Assist in the provision of advice to medical, nursing and other healthcare staff on the optimal and safe use of scientific procedures and highly complex equipment, including assisting in the design of new facilities.
6. Assist with the procurement, acceptance and use of medical devices and consumables.
7. Be responsible for the safe use of complex scientific and medical equipment, including recording all maintenance and calibration procedures performed and any corrective actions undertaken.
8. Use reagents, consumables, hazardous materials and equipment safely and in accordance with Health and Safety policies.
9. Participate in risk management procedures including risk assessment and the investigation and reporting of adverse incidents.
10. Participate in internal and external audit processes and quality systems.
11. Undertake R&D within the department as an integral part of training and acquire relevant skills to undertake clinical audit.
12. Assist with supervision and training of support staff, students and new appointees, and participate in departmental seminars and scientific meetings to disseminate knowledge acquired through study or research.

Education and learning

13. Successfully progress and complete the training and assessment programme in conjunction with the local Training Coordinator/Officer and designated Academic institution to achieve certified competence awarded by the BSE . Undertake suitable training within the host department and other placements to successfully acquire core competencies and thereafter maintain the required standards of competence when undertaking duties.
14. Take responsibility for own learning and development by recognising and taking advantage of all opportunities to learn, including appraisal, supervision, academic course and problem based learning and maintaining a personal portfolio of learning.
15. Ensure that own learning needs, identified with the Training Coordinator/Officer and reflecting the requirements of the curriculum, are met.
16. Retain sufficient flexibility and adaptability in learning in order to ensure full contribution to improving services in response to changing health care needs.
17. Maintain knowledge of recent scientific developments and undertake supplementary training to develop both knowledge and skills.
18. Attend mandatory training (both vocational and academic) as required.
19. Participate in internal and external assessment processes.

Patient management and clinical care

20. Delivery of patient care – experience and contribution in the following areas:
21. Provide support to specialist clinics and specialist treatment interventions.
22. Perform, report and interpret a range of investigations undertaken indirectly for or directly with patients within a range of care settings.
23. Specialist care and treatment interventions for patients across the range of clinical pathways and health care settings.
24. Appropriate clinical and scientific advice and interpretation of analytical results.
25. Participate in multidisciplinary meetings.
26. Apply and promote evidence based practice and use of relevant clinical protocols and procedures.
27. Ensuring that all equipment used on patients and the public is handled and applied in accordance with health and safety requirements and other national or international guidelines.

Communication

28. Communication and interpretation of complex clinical, scientific and technical information to a wide range of people including clinicians, managers, patients and the public.
29. Liaise with senior scientists and clinical users of the service on appropriateness of investigations, interventions and tests.
30. Communicate scientific innovation and service redesign.

31. Communicate research and development findings in written and oral formats to internal and external contacts.

Quality audit

- 32. Contribute to audits to inform patient management and clinical care.
- 33. Contribute to quality audits relating to accreditation and regulation.
- 34. Perform quality assurance, process and outcomes audits relevant to the specialty.
- 35. Develop an audit report and prepare an action plan for any issues that arise from the audit process.
- 36. Contribute to the design of audits to improve the cost effectiveness of the service to patients.

Clinical governance

- 37. Maintain standards for health and safety procedures.
- 38. Comply with quality and governance procedures within the department including risk management and risk mitigation.
- 39. Maintain high standards of professional and personal conduct.
- 40. Ensure that patient safety and experience and effectiveness of service are maximised

Occasional duties

- 41. To carry out any other reasonable duties to achieve learning and experience that may be required, which are commensurate with the grade and nature of the post.
- 42. This job description outlines the main current duties and responsibilities of the training post. The job description will need to be reviewed and subsequently may be altered. Any resulting changes will be subject to consultation.
- 43. In addition to regular assessment and planning meetings, the trainee will have an annual meeting to discuss progress and to consider issues relevant to the wider national training programme.

Trust Values

All staff are expected to strive to make the Trust values 'what we do' – to inspire, develop and support every one of us to live our values, every patient, every colleague, every day.

Each post holder is expected to ensure they live the values of:



PATIENTS FIRST



WORKING TOGETHER



ALWAYS IMPROVING

These values are about us all helping each other to deliver great patient experience more consistently – involving people who use our services, their families, carers, staff, and partners in continuing to improve the experience people have using and delivering our services.

Person Specification

The purpose of this specification is to identify the attributes required by applicants to perform the duties in the job description. The specification will be used to shortlist applicants and to compare how well candidates match the agreed specification. It will also be used by potential candidates to understand expectations and identify how their skills, behaviours and experience will be assessed.

Skills and competencies
Analytical thinking
Attention to detail
Communication
Data analysis
Emotional intelligence
General IT skills
Interpersonal skills
Leadership
Presentation skills
Prioritisation
Record keeping
Research skills
Working under pressure

Qualifications, knowledge and experience	
Essential	
Applicants must have a 1st or 2.1 Cardiac Physiology (PTP) or a relevant scientific subject (examples include Physiology, Pure or Applied Physics, Biology or Human Biology, or Sports Science (if significant scientific content) or equivalent experience and appropriate underpinning knowledge and skills in cardiology - as evidenced for example by appropriate voluntary registration with the Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists or Academy for Healthcare Science	Explain analytical, scientific and clinical aspects of the work to a variety of people including scientific colleagues, clinical professionals, service managers and patients and to listen to their needs.
Has an understanding of the role of an Echocardiographer in healthcare and disease and its application in a healthcare setting.	Self-aware and flexible enough to adopt a range of evaluative or empathising listening styles according to the needs of the listener and the situation.
A committed, in depth interest in Echocardiography and its application to direct clinical care of patients.	Ability to analyse complex information comprising laboratory or workshop data, images and clinical details to formulate appropriate advice and judgements.
Ability to design research investigations and experiments.	Flexibility to acquire the skills to organise, plan and monitor the workload of others.
Ability to analyse and assess scientific, technical and medical literature.	Ability to use, maintain and troubleshoot scientific equipment.
Understanding of the role of Echocardiography in healthcare and disease and its application in a healthcare setting.	Understanding of quality control and management assurance in a science or work based context.
Ability to develop proficiency in the performance of routine and complex techniques currently in use where they are training (ability to follow Standard Operating Procedures accurately) and the ability to develop and validate new techniques.	Ability to identify problems associated with scientific equipment, inappropriate testing, incompatible results and to investigate these, plan corrective action confirming appropriateness with senior colleagues and follow up.

Additional Information

This job description is designed to help post-holders understand what is expected of them in their role though, please note, it focuses upon the core requirements of the post. Other related duties within the employee's skills and abilities will be expected whenever reasonably instructed. The job description may be amended in consultation with the post-holder within the scope and general level of responsibility associated with the post. It is the post-holder's responsibility to ensure that they adhere to all Trust policies, procedures and guidelines relating to their employment, regardless of their position.

A job description does not constitute a 'term and condition of employment'. It is provided only as a guide to assist the employee in the performance of their job. The Trust is a fast-moving organisation and therefore changes in employees' duties may be necessary from time to time.

Safeguarding

The Trust is committed to safeguarding children, young people, and adults at risk within its care. As an employee you are accountable to ensure that you know how to respond when you are concerned for the safety of a child, young person, or adult at risk. The Trust will support you in this process by providing training, support, and advice. There is a Corporate Safeguarding Team who can be contacted for guidance, support, and safeguarding supervision. For children and adults, you should be aware of your responsibilities detailed in UHS policies and procedures and local safeguarding children and adult boards procedures.

Mental Capacity Act 2005

All staff are required to ensure knowledge regarding the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) at a level deemed essential for their role. The level of training required will be specified to members of staff and is dependent on their role. It is important that staff understand and comply with local policies and procedures relating to MCA to ensure the Trust can act in an individual's best interest when providing care. This helps to ensure ongoing adherence to our legal obligations and ensuring we put the needs of our patients first.

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