

# Doctors' Assistant

## Supporting Doctors, Improving Patient Care Our new Band 3 clinical support role

Following our award winning Doctors' Assistant pilot programme, a brand new apprenticeship opportunity is available for experienced Healthcare Assistants to be developed into Doctors' Assistants, a new Band 3 clinical support role.

As a Doctors' Assistant, you will work alongside doctors to support their inpatient/ward work. Your role will combine a range of clinical and administrative competencies with clinical supervision provided by a senior doctor.

You will be expected to be self-motivated and use judgement and initiative where appropriate, supported by a robust induction, supervision plan and training.

The Doctors' Assistant role is based at Conquest Hospital or Eastbourne DGH and is a full time role.

### Eligibility

In order to be eligible for the programme, you must have completed the Healthcare Assistant (HCA) induction programme, and successfully completed the care certificate.

### Programme details

The programme commences with induction and follows an ongoing supervision plan. You will be assigned an Educational Supervisor (doctor) who will meet with you and be available for you to contact as necessary.



You will attend training sessions held by the Trust covering these topics:

What are blood tests for
Abbreviations
Patient journey
Clinical education
Discharge summaries
Common medical problems
Venous Thromboembolism (VTE)
Mobilisation
Nutrition and hydration

Dynamic Training will allocate you a Skills & Development Coach who will plan to challenge and stretch your learning as you develop new knowledge, skills and competencies in the workplace. If you haven't already achieved English and maths at Level 2, this will be incorporated into your programme.

The Senior Healthcare Support Worker apprenticeship programme is delivered as blended learning. You will need to have good internet access and a suitable device such as a smart phone, laptop, or tablet to work on. Microsoft Teams is used for coaching sessions and Zoom is used for taught sessions.

Your Skills and Development Coach will focus on the core knowledge, skills and behaviours required of a Senior Healthcare Support Worker:

- Health and well-being
- Duty of care and candour
- Safeguarding, equality and diversity
- Person centred care and support
- Communication
- Personal, people and quality improvement

and further learning specifically centred around adult nursing support which has been mapped to the Doctors' Assistant role such as:

Clinical tasks you will routinely be expected to carry out within your role
The range of physiological states that can be measured including body temperature, height, weight, blood pressure, pulse, urinary output,

breathing rate, oxygen saturation, and blood sugar levels; the types of equipment used and how to check they are in working order
The importance of skin integrity and how to check it
How to care for wounds
How to take and test venous and capillary blood and other specimens
What is meant by frailty; the end of life phase and factors that impact on the care of the dying or deceased
The discharge process, the availability and services offered by the extended health and social care system
Where to source equipment and resources
The importance of early diagnosis in relation to dementia and other cognitive issues; why depression, delirium and the normal ageing process may be mistaken for dementia
Approaches to promoting health and well-being; a range of long term conditions and the impact they may have on a person's physical and mental health and well-being;
The effects of poor nutrition and dehydration
How to wash, dress and support an adult to use the toilet; ways to manage situations in which the adult cannot do these things for themselves
How to help adults to be mobile and the importance of rest and sleep

Additional enhancement sessions will also be offered.

At the end of the 15 month on-programme when you have completed the mandatory requirements, you will progress to End Point Assessment (EPA) which is undertaken by an Independent Assessment organisation.

The Independent Assessment Organisation will determine your final grade.