

Assistant Practitioner (Health)

① What the role entails

Assistant Practitioners work as part of the wider health and social care team and have direct contact with patients, service users or clients providing high quality and compassionate care. Assistant Practitioners work at a level above that of Healthcare Support Workers and have a more in-depth understanding about factors that influence health and ill-health. An Assistant Practitioner works under the supervision of a Registered Practitioner in accordance with employer policy, protocols and standard operating procedures. The Registered Practitioner remains accountable for the appropriate and effective delegation of activities and must ensure that the Assistant Practitioner has the competency, confidence and expertise to carry out such activities. Once an activity has been accepted, the Assistant Practitioner is accountable for their actions.

② On-programme assessment

The apprentice must achieve the following on-programme assessment requirements prior to Gateway:

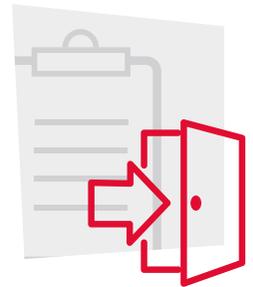
- The 15 standards required by the Care Quality Commission (as set out in the Care Certificate)
- Level 2 English and maths
- Study days and training courses
- Formal programmes of lectures, seminars and workshops that are provided as part of their regulated qualification
- Mentoring/buddy support
- Completion of portfolios, essays, reflective accounts and projects through which the apprentice gathers evidence of their progress
- Structured one to one reviews of their progress with their employer and/or Independent Training Provider.



③ Gateway requirements

The decision to take an apprentice through Gateway is made between the employer, Independent Training Provider and apprentice. The apprentice must have achieved all the required on-programme elements before they enter Gateway, including the following:

- A regulated Level 5 occupational competence qualification
- A reflective journal. Evidence must be gathered following completion of their programme of training and development and during the 3 months leading up to the planned date of the end-point assessment.



④ End-Point Assessment

The EPA for Healthcare Assistant Practitioner contains 3 methods of assessment as outlined below:

Multiple Choice and Short Answer Test

The multiple choice/short answer test covers all knowledge requirements within the standard. There are 40 multiple choice (1 mark each) and 4 short answer questions (5 marks each) (maximum 250 word answers). The grade boundaries are set to allow candidates to achieve Pass, Merit and Distinction grades according to the following:

Pass – 40-59%

Merit - 60-74%

Distinction - 75%+

Observation of Practice

Lasting for a minimum of 90 minutes the Observation of Practice will take place during the course of an apprentice's normal work day and is essential to assessing the retention of learned skills. During the Observation, an Independent End-Point Assessor (IEPA) will use their professional judgement to limit impact to business operations and will ensure sensitivity in delicate situations.

The Observation is ungraded above Pass.

Reflective Journal and Interview

The apprentice will produce a 2000 word (+/- 10%) Reflective Journal that demonstrates their learning and development activities and the application of these in the workplace. The Reflective Journal should showcase the apprentice's development of Case Management and Supervision and Teaching. Following the Reflective Journal submission, the IEPA will digitally connect with the apprentice for a 30–60 minute Interview that enables the apprentice to further showcase their knowledge, skills and behaviours from across the standard.

The Reflective Journal and Interview are graded as a Pass where the standard is met, Merit where the standard is exceeded or Distinction where the standard is far exceeded.

⑤ Grade aggregation table

Observation of Practice	MCQ and SAQ Test	Reflective Journal and Interview	Overall Grade	
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
		Merit	Pass	
		Distinction	Merit	
	Merit	Merit	Pass	Pass
			Merit	Merit
			Distinction	Merit
	Distinction	Distinction	Pass	Merit
			Merit	Merit
			Distinction	Distinction

⑥ Completion and certification

Once the IEPA verifies the apprentice has successfully completed all EPAs, CACHE will activate certification. Working with the apprenticeship certificate issuing authority, we'll ensure the apprentice receives their certificate.



⑦ What next?

For those Assistant Practitioners who wish to progress into Registered Practice, the apprenticeship can provide credits into some Higher Education programmes aligned to professional registration.

Why choose EPA Plus?

We are an approved End-Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO) specialising in EPA delivery across Health, Education & Care and Business apprenticeship standards. EPA Plus offers a flexible and reliable EPA solutions supported by sector expertise, guidance documents and proactive service and support.