

JOB TITLE Assistant Practitioner (Screening Mammography)
BAND 4

Job Summary

- To perform screening mammography imaging examinations with precision and speed on asymptomatic persons in order to align with the requirements of Breast Test Wales screening programme.
- Support registered staff in delivering biopsies, drainages and undertake other associated clinical, administrative and film processing requirements to support delivery of the Breast Test Wales screening programme.
- Travel to mobile sites within the relevant Division, working with one other staff member to undertake screening examinations within the mobile units.
- You will be in possession of the Agored Level 4 Diploma for Assistant Practitioner (Screening Mammography) / equivalent qualification or commit to undertake this apprenticeship on appointment, completing academic and clinical assessments alongside in-house training to achieve the competencies required for this post.

Responsible to

Reporting:

Accountable:

Professionally:

Responsibilities and Duties

Planning and Design

Prioritise and manage own workload, maintaining flexibility in agreeing deployment rotas and early / late working to assist with delivering clinical services. Take responsibility to ensure academic work and practical training are balanced alongside service delivery and rota requirements. Dealing with enquiries and ensuring information is passed to appropriate staff, prioritising demands due to the unpredictable nature of the work and the potentially competing needs of several groups of staff. Check clinic lists, making sure all images and paperwork are available ahead of time and escalating any potential issues to senior staff to reduce delays. Ensure all necessary steps are undertaken to enable image interpretation and reporting, highlighting any unexpected findings to clinicians to expedite care. Independently organise daily tasks using own initiative in response to the needs of the department / service.

Improvement and Monitoring

Participate in quality control and quality assurance procedures, undertaking testing on equipment to ensure optimal working and have basic knowledge of interpreting test results and know how and when to take remedial action. Participate in performance reviews and individual appraisals, maintaining a continual professional development portfolio and ensuring knowledge and skills remain up to date and in line with service requirements and maintain a Technical Recall rate of <3% in line with NHSBSP guidelines.

Assist and participate in audits of the Quality Manual, suggesting ideas to be included when necessary.
Participate in personal and peer review of mammography examinations with implementation of agreed outcomes.

Communications

Greet service users, performing identification checks and explain all aspects of the examination to ensure there is understanding and consent. You will need to be able to adapt communication techniques to accommodate those who may have additional needs such as a loss of hearing, language barriers, anxiety or distress being mindful of the stressful environment in assessment sessions where anger and aggression may occasionally be experienced.

Communicate sensitively whilst giving further information such as hospital appointments or result timescales to service users who have been given upsetting or unwelcome news.

Communicate with BTW colleagues, registered staff and clinicians from both imaging and nursing backgrounds in person, via telephone and electronic methods to facilitate seamless service delivery and ensure all information is shared and clear to all.

Attend and participate in staff meetings to receive and feedback information.

Clinical

Gain the knowledge and practical skills to act as an IR(ME)R Operator, delivering protocol based images of the breast which are within the agreed scope of practice and are of optimal diagnostic quality, and developing the judgement skills required to determine when further or repeat imaging is required.

Be able to adapt patient positioning and exposure parameters to obtain optimal image quality at the lowest radiation dose levels, whilst mindful of any physical or other restrictions patients may have, and developing the speed and accuracy required to deliver services in a fast paced environment.

Accurately identify and record clinical observations such as nipple inversion or skin tethering.

Work under both direct, indirect, and remote supervision relative to experience and in line with scope of practice and governance documents.

Assist medical staff with clinical procedures, performing haemostasis and assisting with procedures such as cyst aspirations in line with training.

Undertake the insertion and removal of intravenous cannulas, flushing with prefilled saline devices.

Prepare equipment for administration of intravenous medicines / contrast by registered staff where legal mechanisms allow, and acting as a second checker where these are to be administered by a registered practitioner.

Lay out procedure trolleys and equipment using aseptic techniques for a variety of procedures, clearing, packaging, disposing of used items and handling specimens and ensuring a clean and decontaminated environment is maintained in line with all policies and procedures.

Work in line with local and national policies, procedures, protocols, guidance, and in line with radiation regulations, reporting hazards, near misses or incidents through established channels immediately.

Use skills and knowledge gained through role to overcome a range of clinically based and other issues, being able to identify instances where escalation to senior staff is required.

Undertake as required, additional duties delegated from registered staff which align with national guidance relating to delegation, supervision, and scope of practice of Assistant Practitioners in Mammography Screening.

Always work within the defined scope of practice of an Assistant Practitioner (Mammography Screening), consulting senior colleagues in instances where patients are required to be imaged by registered staff (e.g., those with breast implants, Hickman Lines or other implanted medical devices).

Non-Clinical

Perform reception and other administrative duties as required, including maintaining, filing, and retrieving of images from other centres. Infrequent carrying of films up stairs or to / from another building may be required in some locations.

Report any equipment malfunction or degradation of imaging quality without delay, following protocols to ensure all staff are aware of issues and impact.

Follow BTW infection prevention & control requirements to decontaminate and clean equipment and environment, removal and safe disposal of clinical waste and sharps, assist service users with personal care and changing into examination gowns as required.

Ability to travel between static and mobile units, some of which may be geographically remote and/or require overnight stays, in a timely manner. Perform chaperone duties as required, including for consultants giving both benign and malignant results in instances where a nurse counsellor is unavailable.

Commence investigations in areas such as discrepancies, escalating to senior staff as required.

Finance and Budget

Ensure the efficient use of resources by utilising stock in date order and ensuring ongoing adequate levels, reporting or ordering supplies as required.

Commit to achieve the required Level 4 qualification in order to ensure financial investment benefits service delivery.

Be responsible for accurate and timely submission of own expenses and claims, reporting any discrepancies in pay promptly to managers.

Management, Leadership and/or Training

You will undertake the Level 4 Assistant Practitioner (Screening Mammography) qualification to gain the required knowledge and skills to practice as an Assistant Practitioner within BTW screening services, requiring approximately 12 months of both academic and clinical training and assessment.

Remain up to date with practice developments and incorporate the need to train on new equipment as necessary.

You may be required to support the training and development of Clinical Support Workers or future Assistant Practitioner trainees.

Achievement and ongoing accreditation to the Society of Radiographers Assistant Practitioner register is voluntary but encouraged, and you will be supported by managers to obtain this.

Digital and Information

Use a range of software programmes such as National Breast Screening System (NBSS) and Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS) to record, access, verify and update patient demographics, clinical information, images, and results, and ensure all data from mobile units are entered to these systems.

Prepare digital data for work on mobile units and arrange for images of technical recalls to be available to these sites.

Import images from external organisations and other BTW sites via Image Exchange Portal (IEP) or CDs, checking successful upload and actioning any requests to export to external organisations using the same systems, upload PERFORMS images.

Prepare and match digital and analogue films in order for reporting purposes, digitising films and forms and importing to PACS as required and assist with image preparation for MDT meetings.

Problem solve straightforward issues with digital / informatics systems using knowledge from system training, escalating issues beyond resolution promptly.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Qualifications and Knowledge

Essential

Level 4 Assistant Practitioner (Mammography Screening) qualification or equivalent

Desirable

Level 3 Diploma in Health Screening or other Healthcare related area.

Experience

Essential

Experience of working with people.

Desirable

Previous experience in health and / or social care in either paid, work experience, or voluntary capacity

Knowledge of NHBSS and BTW services.

Skills and Attributes

Good verbal and written communication skills and basic computer skills.

Caring and empathetic manner, ability to deal with distressing situations.

Ability to work both independently and as part of a team.

Methodical and able to remain focused and calm under pressure and in busy environments.

Motivated and willing to learn in both educational and clinical surroundings, seeking out learning, accept instruction and give/receive contrastive feedback.

Welsh Language Skills are desirable levels 1 to 5 in understanding, speaking, reading and writing in Welsh.

Other

Satisfactory Standard/Enhanced DBS clearance including Adults Barred List check.

Ability to move and handle equipment and assist with manual handling of patients, manual dexterity to undertake patient positioning for imaging.

Ability to travel between BTW mobile units in a timely manner and where overnight stays may be necessary.