

JOB TITLE Radiography Assistant Practitioner
BAND 4

Job Summary

- Act as an IR(ME)R operator, making independent decisions on patient positioning and exposure factors to produce high quality diagnostic radiographic images within a defined, protocol-driven scope of practice.
- Operate complex diagnostic radiography equipment safely, complying with all national and local guidelines relating to radiation safety.
- Work alongside registered Radiographers to support delivery of imaging services, ensuring all patients receive optimal care. Whilst you may predominantly work within plain film services, supporting examinations within the fluoroscopy service may be undertaken in line with service need.

Responsible to

Reporting:

Accountable:

Professionally:

Responsibilities and Duties

Planning and Design

Maintaining effective and efficient day-to-day services within own area of work, managing worklists, ensuring imaging requests are available ahead of patient attendance (where required), and taking initiative in ensuring sufficient stock of consumables to facilitate appointment times remaining on schedule.

Prioritising patients whilst working in areas that operate an open appointment or walk in service, remaining considerate of other professionals who may request urgent imaging to determine the most appropriate immediate treatment and onward patient care.

Improvement and Monitoring

Support and participate in departmental audit processes, either individually or as part of a team to support service improvements. Propose changes which could improve service quality and raise concerns where you feel quality is / may be compromised.

Communications

Greet patients, undertake required identification and safety checks, obtain informed consent, explaining all aspects of the imaging and results process in a tactful and sensitive manner.

Adapt communication methods to the needs of individuals, being aware that patients may be anxious or in pain which may impact communication.

Use a range of verbal and non-verbal communication techniques to communicate effectively with staff, patients, carers, and visitors to overcome communication barriers i.e., cultural differences, language barriers, sensory impairment, or physiological difficulties. Provide support to patients who may receive distressing news, taking the time to explain any follow up appointments or examinations. Ensure all patients, carers, and staff remain updated about any unexpected delays, supporting patient flow by ensuring accurate transfer of information.

Communicate regularly and develop working relationships with a multidisciplinary team to contribute to the efficient running of radiology services, including contacting patients, wards, and other departments both in person and via telephone to organise examinations and arrange any necessary preparation as detailed by registered staff.

Respond appropriately to routine and non-routine queries, taking action where appropriate or escalating to registered practitioners.

Possess the skills and knowledge to support the resolution of conflict and verbal complaints.

Clinical

Achieve the knowledge, skill and accuracy required to undertake all duties related to obtaining diagnostic plain film imaging of the chest, abdomen, axial and appendicular skeleton, being competent in modifying technique, positioning, and exposure parameters as appropriate for the patient.

Support protocol-driven routine fluoroscopic examinations using static equipment such as GI studies, working alongside an Advanced Practitioner or other appropriate registered clinician entitled to operate fluoroscopy equipment.

Act as an operator under IR(ME)R, responsible for the operation of highly expensive and complex equipment required for a range of imaging procedures.

Ensure all imaging requests are justified, either in person from an IR(ME)R practitioner, or via written protocol-driven governance documents.

Ensure the correct patient, examination, acquisition protocols, exposure factors, and detector are selected ahead of image capture.

Assess own images for diagnostic quality and suitability, acting in line with AP scope of practice and entitlement to repeat imaging and seeking advice and assistance from registered Radiographers where diagnostic quality is reduced or where urgent / unexpected findings are noted.

Work under direct, indirect, or remote supervision as appropriate to level of experience and in line with national and local delegated authority guidelines and risk assessments. (Where operating under remote supervision, systems will be in place to ensure a registered Radiographer is able to view images obtained by the Assistant Practitioner and is available to provide advice and or intervention as required.)

Ensure images produced are reviewed by an appropriate registered practitioner. This may be a Radiographer in instances where the patient is to return home, or another registered practitioner / clinician where the patient is immediately returning to their care for review and treatment.

Undertake the insertion and removal of intravenous cannulas, flushing with pre-filled 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.

Administer oral medicines / contrast after supply by a registered practitioner where legal mechanisms permit.

Undertake and support others with the manual handling of patients, using appropriate aids as required.

To always work within the scope of practice of an Assistant Practitioner and ensure collaboration with a registered Radiographer is sought as required.

To undertake other clinical or administrative duties within the remit of an Assistant Practitioner and as delegated from registered staff.

Non-Clinical

Maintain own safety and that of patients and other staff when working in restricted or controlled areas, abiding by all local rules, radiation and safety regulations and ensuring correct use of dosimeter badges.

Undertake defined QA / QC processes on equipment in line with training, documenting results, taking appropriate immediate action when results are outside of set tolerances and reporting these to a registered member of staff without delay.

Maintain cleanliness of static and mobile imaging equipment, accessories, and environments using appropriate PPE and cleaning materials.

Moving of mobile imaging equipment and MRI coils, taking care to preserve functional integrity through careful handling, reporting any accidents or concerns promptly and undertaking any functional checks as delegated from registered staff.

Support maintenance of processing and associated equipment, reporting any faults to registered staff and liaising with engineers as required.

Able to recognise safeguarding concerns, initiating procedures delegated by registered staff where appropriate.

Maintain a flexible approach, understanding that service requirements may require changes to planned rotas or cross site working.

Finance and Budget

Ensure efficient use of resources by utilising stock in date order, ensuring requests for ordering additional supplies are directed to the appropriate person(s) with sufficient notice to ensure ongoing availability.

Management, Leadership and/or Training

Support and participate in the training and assessments of trainee Assistant Practitioners and student Radiographers, providing mentorship and giving feedback as required.

Support the induction and training of newly employed Radiology Clinical Support Workers within own area of work.

Undertake local training as required, such as on new equipment, positioning or imaging protocols, or fluoroscopic examinations within the remit of APs.

Participate in annual development reviews and ensure CPD portfolio is maintained.

Achievement and ongoing accreditation to the Society of Radiographers Assistant Practitioner register is voluntary but encouraged, with management support provided against application.

Digital and Information

Follow all processes for referral, appointments, justification, authorisation, and reporting for patient pathways, ensuring guidance and advice is sought from a registered Radiographer where needed.

Accurately record examination information to include radiation dose, operator, practitioner, and all other required information in Radiology Informatics Systems, following internal processes where amendments are required to contribute to the ongoing accuracy of patient records.

Ensure all examinations are completed and accessible on PACS systems to facilitate timely reporting by registered staff.

Accessing software such as Radiology Informatics Systems, Patient Management System, Welsh Clinical Portal to ensure any required pre-procedure results are available to registered staff, highlighting any instances where these are unavailable to minimise patient delays.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Qualifications and Knowledge

Essential

Level 4 Assistant Practitioner (Clinical Imaging) qualification or equivalent.

Desirable

Level 3 Clinical Imaging Support / Clinical Healthcare Support or other health related qualification.

Experience**Essential**

Previous experience in healthcare or radiology environment.

Desirable

Previous experience as a Radiology Clinical Support Worker.

Skills and Attributes

Good verbal and written communication skills and evidence of computing 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 an/a Adults and Childrens Barred List check

Manual dexterity and hand-eye coordination to undertake patient positioning for imaging.

Ability to move and handle equipment and assist with manual handling of patients.

Ability to travel between sites within the Health Board in a timely manner.

Ability to undertake shift work as required e.g., days / nights / weekends.