

National Apprenticeship - Occupational Profile

Apprenticeship Title	Advanced Healthcare Assistant Practitioner (AHAP)
NFQ Level	Level 6 Higher Certificate in Healthcare Support Practice
Duration	2 years
Occupational Title	Advanced Healthcare Assistant Practitioner

Typical tasks/ responsibilities

Advanced Healthcare Assistant Practitioners work as part of the multidisciplinary teams in a manner that provides safe, compassionate, respectful and empathic wellbeing to a wide range of care recipients including those with a disability. Together with the healthcare team they promote health, longevity and independence and thereby support care recipients in all activities of daily living. As assistant practitioners, they always work under the direct supervision of a registered nurse or other registered healthcare professional depending on the setting.

Advanced Healthcare Assistant Practitioners undertake a range of clinical and social care tasks within their scope of practice for which their competency has been evidenced. Through an evidenced-based process, they use their observation and intuitive skills to assist the team in assessing a care recipient's condition and wellbeing. They respect the privacy, dignity, confidentiality and safety of care recipients always.

Advanced Healthcare Assistant Practitioners work as part of a team, assisting with risk management, safeguarding vulnerable adults and children, assisting with audits, and supporting other colleagues. They communicate directly with care recipients, clinical staff and the care recipient's family members with whom they interact.

On successful completion of the proposed apprenticeship, an Advanced Healthcare Assistant Practitioner will have the following knowledge, skills and competences:

Knowledge

Role and Responsibilities:

- Scope of practice
- Code of conduct
- Code of ethics
- Employer policies and procedures
- National standards and guidelines for healthcare settings
- Legislation in the healthcare sector
- Protection of vulnerable adults and children legislation
- Models of care practice
- Communication and Interpersonal skills
- Dignity and respect amongst vulnerable populations
- Multidisciplinary team roles and responsibilities

Clinical:

- Infection prevention and control/universal precautions in healthcare
- Nutrition, hydration
- Health promotion and health literacy
- The structure and function of the body systems

Knowledge (Cont'd)

- Diseases processes
- Health across the lifespan trajectory
- Mental health issues
- Responsive behaviours
- Acute and chronic illnesses
- Sociology of health and illness
- Disabilities
- Factors affecting wellbeing
- Indicators of neglect or abuse

Skills

Generic Skills:

- Maintaining a safe environment
- Assisting in health promotion
- Supporting independence
- People moving and handling skills
- First aid responder skills
- Implementing cleaning protocols
- Communicating effectively with:
 - Care recipients
 - Families
 - Colleagues
 - Multidisciplinary team

Clinical Skills:

Working under the direction of a registered nurse or other registered healthcare professional, the Advanced Healthcare Assistant Practitioner will assist in the following skills for which they have proven competence.

- Administration of topical medications/eye-drops/eardrops/nasal sprays, and prompting medications from blister packs
- Administration and monitoring of sub-cutaneous fluids
- Female catheterisation and basic catheter care; catheter removal
- Basic wound cleansing and dressing
- Blood glucose monitoring
- Collection of laboratory specimens (e.g. MSSU/CSU; Sputum; Faecal, etc.)
- CPR
- Enteral/PEG feeding
- Fluid balance and nutritional intake recording
- Monitoring of elimination
- Oxygen therapy and nebulisation
- Stoma care
- Urinalysis
- Vital signs monitoring (including blood pressure, pulse, respirations, temperature)
- Weight monitoring

Care Skills:

- Assisting with nutrition and hydration
- Assisting/supporting activities of daily living
- Assisting care recipient autonomy in their own care
- Contributing to interactions with family members in the care strategy
- Supporting care recipients suffering from a range of disabilities
- Using medical and mobility devices

Skills Cont'd

- Mouth care
 - Use of continence products
 - Assisting in Implementing a falls prevention strategy
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Competences

Analytical and Judgement:

- Contributing to the assessment of a care recipient's condition, comfort and wellbeing
- Documenting, recording and reporting data
- Maintaining a care recipient's confidentiality

Attitudes and Behaviours:

- Exercising personal responsibility
- Treating care recipients with dignity, care and respect
- Exhibiting compassion and empathy
- Supporting the development of others in the work place
- Taking responsibility for own personal development and reflective practice

Generic:

- Working within legislation, standards and guidelines, employer policies and scope of practice
- Implementing delegated infection prevention and control measures
- Contributing to workplace and quality of service improvements
- Organising and completing own work schedule
- Participating in audit activities being undertaken in area of practice
- Using IT resources competently as directed

Care and Clinical

- Competence in the delivery of a range of care and clinical interventions
 - Identifying and reporting the triggers of responsive behaviours
 - Promoting the healthy functioning of the body
 - Empowerment of people with a disability
 - Applying principles and aims of a palliative care approach when supporting care recipients who are suffering from a life-shortening condition
 - Responding to signs of pain and other symptoms
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Industry/industries served by the proposed apprenticeship

All care settings including:
hospitals, residential homes, home and community care, day care centres and disability care centres

Proposed minimum entry requirements for apprentices on the programme

For entry onto the programme apprentices will be required to have:

The necessary support of their employers.

**Proposed
minimum entry
requirements for
apprentices on the
programme
Cont'd**

1. Employed healthcare assistants who have a relevant QQI Healthcare Level 5 Major Award (120 credits) with distinctions in at least 3 components or equivalent qualification from another awarding body which is mapped to level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications and a minimum of 6 months' work experience in the healthcare sector
2. Leaving certificate: 5 subjects with O6/H7 to include English. Learners also need to have foundation mathematics and a minimum of 6 months experience of working as a healthcare assistant and at least 2 relevant QQI level 5 healthcare components - 30 credits
3. A mature candidate, over the age of 23 who does not hold the above Level 5 qualifications as set out in categories 1 or 2 above but who has a minimum of 2 years' experience working as a healthcare Assistant, is recommended by their employer and demonstrates the correct attitudes, behaviours and literacy skills, will also be eligible to apply.

The English language entry requirements for the programme are CEF B2+ or equivalent. Candidates with English language levels below CEF B2+ must first reach this minimum standard before enrolling on the academic programme

Learners must have their first aid responder, people moving and handling, Garda vetting and any relevant vaccinations (responsibility of the employer).