NHS Grampian

**Job Description**

# SECTION 1

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| **Job Title:** | Physician Associate |
| **Department(s):** | Acute Stroke Unit |
| **Location:** | Aberdeen Royal Infirmary  |
| **Hours:**  | 37.5 hours per week |
| **Grade:** | Band 7 |
| **Salary:** | £39,300 - £46,006 |
| **Contract:** | Permanent  |
| **Job Reference:** | NW021525 |
| **Closing Date:**  | Wednesday, 5th August 2020 |

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| **Job Purpose**The role involves being a vital member of the Acute Stroke team, helping with assessment, diagnosis and management of Stroke patients in the emergency department and on the Acute Stroke unit. This will be given under the direction and guidance of Stroke Consultants. The post holder will play an important part in supporting junior medical staff in Wards 402/3. This involves supporting the on-call consultant with Acute Stroke referrals and assisting with hyperacute Stroke management. This includes assisting in assessing and help treat patients with thrombolysis, and as a thrombectomy service develops in the coming year, assist inpatients being referred and transferred for thrombectomy in cases with large vessel occlusion.The physician associate will be a member of the Acute Stroke team. There is a requirement to recognise and understand the importance of the multi-disciplinary team in management of Stroke patients for rehabilitation, discharge home or palliative care as needed. The post-holder will be accountable for ensuring that patient care is of a high standard at all times and that standards of care and treatment meet the department’s requirements. The post holder will develop expertise in managing minor Stroke and TIA patients in clinic, under supervision of the on-call Stroke Consultant.The post-holder will be supervised by Stroke consultants with an identified educational supervisor for career development. At present the role is designed around normal working hours, but if required the physician associate will provide clinical care as directed including weekends and out of hours.The physician associate will be expected to maintain a generalist medical knowledge while also developing expert clinical knowledge of cerebrovascular disease. This provision will initially be predominately work in inpatient wards with a regular TIA outpatient clinic involvement. |
| **Organisational Chart** **Supervising Consultants** **Physician Associate-(this post)** Managerial Responsibility Clinical Responsibility Practice under the guidance of the Cardiology team  |
| **Communication and relationship skills** Once management/treatment plans are determined there will be a requirement to inform and counsel patients and relatives/carers regarding explanation of investigations for Stroke (e.g. Doppler, CT brain and angiogram, R test and Holter monitor, Echocardiography). Stroke patients can require prolonged rehabilitation and carer support to facilitate hospital discharge. The post holder should display empathy and reassurance in speaking with patients and their relatives. Good interpersonal skills are important to facilitate good team working with the staff on the Stroke unit including, doctors, nurses, dietitian pharmacist, therapists (Occupational, Speech and language, Physiotherapists) and the mobile Stroke team. Other Staff in the wider stroke team include the Chest Heart and Stroke nurses, research nurses, Stroke secretary and receptionist, and Neuroradiologists.Effective communication with the referring doctor and the patients General Practitioner/Consultant by promptly issuing a clinical letter (paper or electronically). This will indicate patient findings and treatment/management plan with conditions for review either by the Consultant, General Practitioner, member of clinical team, Physician Associate.There will be a requirement to liaise with, and refer to, (where appropriate) other clinical specialities. There will be a requirement to follow up patients whilst under the care of other specialities within the system.Effective negotiation with patients to manage conflict and de-escalate potentially violent or aggressive situations when required.Consider, discuss and learn from complaints about aspects of care / service delivery, and participate in Stroke audit to help achieve Stroke audit standards, and identify areas to improve practice. |
| Knowledge, training and experienceCompletion of a Post Graduate Diploma in Physician Assistant/Associate Studies from a UK university which is interlinked with the UK national physician assistant/associate exam.Extensive knowledge and experience of diagnosing and treating patients with Stroke including relevant diagnoses, diagnostic tests and treatment plans both within an acute setting and outpatient environment. Some understanding of Geriatrics, Cardiology, and Neurology is desirable. Ability to undertake and support practical procedures such as venepuncture, and cannulation, insertion of urinary catheter and NG tube. Completion of an undergraduate degree which has enabled admission to a UK University Post-Graduate Diploma course in Physician Assistant/Associate Studies.Current and valid certification or recertification by the physician associate national examination board or if American trained current and valid certification with the national commission on certification for physician assistants Registration with the UK Managed Voluntary Register for Physician Assistants/Associates and the Royal College of Physicians faculty.Basic life support provider with the expectation of gaining accreditation in immediate life support (ILS).Ensure specialist knowledge is maintained by a commitment to lifelong learning and personal development. Utilise informal opportunities for learning/teaching and education with consultants, specialist trainees, ward nursing staff and junior doctors.Undertake 50 hours of continuing professional development annually to maintain certification with the national physician assistant/associate Managed Voluntary Register. Maintain own clinical skills to a high standard to ensure safe delivery of care. Reflect on current theoretical knowledge base or relevant practical experience. Discuss with supervising consultant during PDP process. Identify relevant mandatory and statutory clinical updates that are required and areas of knowledge or expertise required for personal development. |
| Analytical and judgemental skillsWork within the Stroke team, using clinical skills to deliver patient care including, potentially, weekends and out of hours. Different patient scenarios will have to be considered during the assessment of the patient. This will include differential diagnosis of possible different clinical conditions. During treatment assessment of the treatment/management plan needs reviewing on daily ward rounds.Utilising own professional judgement and in discussion with the consultant team decide when patients require referral to another speciality. Record and present findings in a manner consistent with local policies and procedures, using judgement to ensure facts are reported correctly. The possibilities of different clinical conditions will be included during recording and presentation.Request appropriate investigations and interpret their findings in view of other clinical information as per guidelines both within the outpatient and acute setting. Assist medical and nursing staff in all clinical emergencies.Inform and counsel patients and relatives/carers regarding explanation of procedures, diagnosis, treatment and management of Stroke. This may include long term management consistent with life circumstances.Fully document all aspects of patient care and complete required paperwork for legal and administrative purposes. |
| Planning and organisational skillsInitial patient assessment will determine the formulation of appropriate patient investigations as per guidelines.In liaison with the consultant team and as required, a patient management/treatment plan will be developed which will be kept under review as further clinical information is forthcoming. Will effectively manage and organise own workload.  |
| Physical SkillsTechnical skills as required/directed:* Maintain patient airway in emergency situations.
* Give correct prescribed oxygen concentration.
* Measure and observe patients condition and act appropriately on changes in condition.
* Record a 12 lead ECG, interpret results and act accordingly.
* Undertake arterial blood gases
* Measure and observe patients condition and act appropriately on changes in condition.
* Safe movement and comfort of patients.
* Use and analysis of R test heart monitors.

Utilise technical clinical equipment, calibrating when required, checking for faults and ensuring regular maintenance.Use electric beds and various pressure relieving mattresses as required. Use computers and software; word, excel, power point, results reporting system,TRAK, ECCI, internet, intranet including e-mail, SSTS, printer.Basic skills to use information technology to operate such systems as e-KSF.  |
| Responsibilities for patient/client careCardiology incorporates a wide spectrum of diseases and requires close interaction with other specialties. The post-holder will be expected to provide advice on care/treatment of patients to other doctors, nurses and physician associates.Exercise a high degree of personal autonomy when assessing, managing and planning Stroke care for a caseload of patients. There will be a requirement for appropriate insight when this is outside the scope of the postholders clinical practice.Attend and participate in daily Huddles and ward rounds as needed. This will include the day to day management of clinical caseloads.Attend Cardiology outpatient clinics as required for a particular cohort of patients. Organise relevant diagnostic testing and manage the patient being ‘worked up’ for various treatments. Develop extensive specialist knowledge and experience in Stroke disease, acting as a resource to colleagues.Provide out of hours delivery of Stroke care under the guidance of the relevant consultant if required. |
| Responsibilities for policy and service development implementationIn conjunction with clinical colleagues, identify areas of the Stroke service to develop and improve.Undertakes audits/clinical governance activities of Stroke clinical practice. The outcomes of such audits/activities will identify how clinical practice could be improved and thereafter ensure such improvements are implemented. Evaluate improvements to Stroke clinical practice in conjunction with other members of the clinical team.Adhere to local risk management / health and safety strategy. |
| Responsibilities for financial and physical resourcesThe post-holder will ensure that any relevant equipment used is safe for use. |
| Responsibilities for human resourcesProvide teaching and support foundation doctors FY1 on management of Stroke, including relevant diagnoses and tests.Provide Stroke teaching to members of the multi-professional team and visiting learners, including medical/nursing students or physician associate students as well as participate in education and development programmes.Supervise physician associate students in undertaking basic workplace assessments in Stroke.Practice under the guidance of the Stroke Consultant and senior nursing staff as appropriate. Maintain own clinical skills to a high standard to ensure safe delivery of care. Utilise informal opportunities for learning, teaching and education with ward nursing staff, junior doctors, specialty registrars and consultants.Undertake 50 hours of continuing professional development annually to maintain certification with the national PA Managed Voluntary Register and the Royal College of Physicians faculty. Attend mandatory and statutory clinical updates as identified during PDP process.Maintain responsibility for own professional development and identify areas for personal development. This is through a professional development review with named Consultant.Maintain own training records and attendance at study days / courses.Acting at all times with honesty and probity. |
| Responsibilities for information resourcesMaintain patient records in accordance with guidelines and NHS Grampian standards.Fully document all aspects of patient care, including clinical observations and test results. Complete required paperwork for legal and administrative purposes. |
| Responsibilities for research and developmentResearch and development is co-ordinated and led by the consultant body. There will be an expectation of occasional participation by the post-holder. This will include collecting results from identified patients, discussing the research methodology with patients and collating results.In conjunction with clinical colleagues and under guidance of the Consultant team and senior nurses identify areas of the service to develop and improve.Undertake audits of the service and prepare reports to disseminate findings to the Stroke team. It is also an expectation that the post holder will undertake further education and study relevant to the post for personal developmental purposes. |
| **Freedom to act**Follows NHS Grampian and locally agreed Stroke unit policies, protocols and procedures.Follows principles from expertise and knowledge developed in Stroke to determine clinical assessment and treatment plans.Self directs and manages own workload on a daily basis.Ability to work using own initiative to manage own workload. Ability to demonstrate skills and knowledge in areas of risk assessment.Ability to adapt according to changing service needs. |
| Physical effortThe post holder must be able to run to clinical emergencies, from a standing start and provide care / resuscitation as required. The post-holder must be able to manoeuvre patients into position for treatment or assessment.  |
| Mental effortPhysical examination and history taking of patients requires concentration for periods of time although not continuously. This will occur on more than half the shifts worked.At the request of a consultant or member of the clinical team or emergency bleep, there will be a requirement to change work activity. |
| Emotional effortDealing with unwell patients and distressed relatives / carers, including unwelcoming news. Dealing with situations where family situations or circumstances ensure a difficult emotional experience.  |
| Working conditionsExposure to potentially violent or aggressive patients including verbal abuse. Exposure to body fluids i.e. taking bloods. |

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PERSON SPECIFICATION

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| The Person Specification should meet the demands of the job and comply with current legislation. Setting unnecessary standards may, for example, unfairly discriminate against one sex, the disabled or minority racial groups. Applicants should be assessed in relation to their ability to meet the real requirements of the job as laid down in the job description. Shortlisted candidates MUST possess all the essential components as detailed below. |
| **Post :** Physician Associate**Department:** Stroke**Location:** Aberdeen Royal Infirmary |
|  | ESSENTIAL | DESIRABLE |  |
| Qualifications | Post-graduate diploma in Physician Assistant Studies from a UK University which is interlinked with the UK National Physician Assistant/ Associate exam or equivalent qualification.Current and valid certification (or recertification) by the UK National Physician Assistant/Associate exam or equivalent.Registration with the UK Managed Voluntary Register for Physician Assistants/Associates and subsequently the Royal College of Physicians faculty.  | An undergraduate or postgraduate qualification relevant to Stroke |
| Experience | Completed a Physician Associate intern year within an NHS organisation or equivalent Physician Associate experience of at least a year.Able to evidence highly developed specialist knowledge.Ability to develop and maintain own clinical skills to high standard to ensure safe delivery of care.Ability to follow NHS Grampian and locally developed medical policies, protocols and procedures.Commitment to lifelong learning and personal development by continuing professional development. | Experience of change management methodology or practiceFamiliarity with Service development and redesign |
| Special Aptitude and Abilities | Ability to work flexibly across different locations and multi-task when necessary, including as required out of hours work.Able to work independently as well as part of a multi-disciplinary team utilising excellent interpersonal skills.Ability to organise and prioritise workload effectively.Describe and receive complex information from various sources evidencing excellent communication skills. |  |
| Disposition | Adaptable to changing working environment and service needs.Ability to influence and challenge colleagues appropriately.Ability to bring people together, deal effectively with conflict and resilience to distressing circumstances.Reflect on NHS experience including current theoretical knowledge base or relevant practical experience. | . |
| Particular requirements of the Post: | Full registration with UKAPA |  |
| Level of Disclosure Check required | PVG |  |
| MAJOR RISKS INDOING THIS JOB |
| *Please indicate the major risks the job holder could face in doing this job e.g. lifting patients/objects, working with hazardous substances, dealing with violence and aggression.**If there are no major risks for the job holder please tick this box*  |