Surgical care practitioner

Surgical care practitioners are members of the surgery team within the NHS. You'll support surgeons and other healthcare professionals before, during and after surgical procedures.

You'll work in an operating theatre, on wards and in clinics. You'll be trained to undertake some surgical procedures under appropriate supervision.

Working life

You'll be a healthcare professional, such as a theatre nurse or operating department practitioner, who has received further training. You'll be trained to undertake a range of tasks in surgery under the direct supervision of surgeon including:

- managing clinics where you would see patients before surgery including ensuring they are placed on surgery lists
- assessing patients to ensure they are clinically fit and healthy for the surgery
• preparing patients for surgery including venepuncture and catheterisation
• surgical procedures under direct supervision of a surgeon such as wound closure, harvesting veins and carpel tunnel surgery,
• supporting a supervising surgeon as as a first or second assistant
• daily ward rounds, making assessments and formulating plans for patients’ post-operative care
• writing of operation notes and ward round note taking
• care after the surgery eg wound assessment, treatment and identification of surgical problems and complications
• provision of support to on-call and emergency services
• evaluating a patient’s condition, including the discharge process and follow-up care arrangements
• training of trainee surgeons
• prescribing appropriate medications

Sara Dalby

Surgical care practitioner

This is an exceptionally rewarding role. It’s allowed me to develop professionally

Real-life story - Sara Dalby [4]

Pay and benefits

You’ll work standard hours of around 37.5 a week. While training, you'll be paid at band 6 of NHS terms and conditions [5] and at band 7 after qualifying. You'll be able to work flexibly which may mean working evenings, nights and weekends.

Entry requirements

Universities will decide on their own specific academic requirements but the minimum entry requirements to a recognised training programme are:

• evidence of an ability to study at Level 7 or above eg at Master’s level
• qualified and registered healthcare professional eg nurse or operating department practitioner
• evidence of at least 18 months post registration experience

Accreditation of prior experiential learning will be dependent upon the local Higher Education Institution requirements.

Must-have skills
• commitment to patient care and patient safety
• understanding of a multidisciplinary team especially with respect to the changing role of surgery
• recognition of the role and responsibilities of being a trainee surgical care practitioner
• understanding of the training programme
• an aptitude for both clinical and operative practice
• recognition that educational as well as clinical development will be required.

Where the role can lead

After completing your training, you'll be expecting to maintain and extend your knowledge, skills and competence as defined by the Royal College of Surgeons. You can also join a managed voluntary register to demonstrate you’re appropriately qualified and working to the standards expected by the Royal College.

It's a dynamic speciality with several areas that the role can expand and extend into. With further training and/or experience, you may be able to apply for roles in specialist surgical teams, clinical management or make the move into education or research.

Live vacancies

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○ Elective Surgical Practitioner

Redditch, B98 7UB

Salary: £43742.00 to £50056.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Elective Surgical Practitioner job (opens in a new window)

○ General Manager - Surgical Services
Swindon, SN3 6BB

Salary:
£58972.00 to £68525.00
Type:
Permanent
Employer:
Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for General Manager - Surgical Services job (opens in a new window) [9]

Outpatient Receptionist – Surgical Division

Salisbury, SP2 8BJ

Salary:
£22383.00
Type:
Permanent
Employer:
Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Outpatient Receptionist – Surgical Division job (opens in a new window) [10]

Deputy Operations Director (Surgical Services)

Sheffield, S10 2JF

Salary:
£58972.00 to £68525.00
Type:
Permanent
Employer:
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Deputy Operations Director (Surgical Services) job (opens in a new window) [11]

Surgical Receiving Unit Ward Clerk

Torquay, TQ2 7AA

Salary:
£22383.00
Type:
Permanent
Employer:
Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Surgical Receiving Unit Ward Clerk job (opens in a new window) [12]
Medical Education Administrator – Surgical Specialties

Aylesbury, HP21 8AL

Salary: £25147.00 to £27596.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Medical Education Administrator – Surgical Specialties job (opens in a new window) [13]

Robotic Surgery Surgical Care Practitioner

London, SW1X 7HY

Salary: Negotiable
Type: Permanent
Employer: Cleveland Clinic London
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Robotic Surgery Surgical Care Practitioner job (opens in a new window) [14]

Ward Clerk - Surgical Assessment Unit

Preston, PR29HT

Salary: £22383.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Ward Clerk - Surgical Assessment Unit job (opens in a new window) [15]

Surgical site infection surveillance Practitioner

Aylesbury, HP21 8AL

Salary: £43742.00 to £50056.00
Type: Permanent
Employer:
Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Surgical site infection surveillance Practitioner job (opens in a new window) [16]

**Cardiothoracic (HVTI) Surgical Care Practitioner**

London, SW1X 7HY

Salary:
   Negotiable
Type:
   Permanent
Employer:
   Cleveland Clinic London
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Cardiothoracic (HVTI) Surgical Care Practitioner job (opens in a new window) [17]

**Surgical Care Practitioner in Gynaecology - Oncology**

Coventry, CV2 2DX

Salary:
   £43742.00 to £50056.00
Type:
   Permanent
Employer:
   University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Surgical Care Practitioner in Gynaecology - Oncology job (opens in a new window) [18]

**Deputy General Manager - Surgical Division (INTERNAL)**

Hereford, HR1 2ER

Salary:
   £43742.00 to £50056.00
Type:
   Fixed-Term
Employer:
   Wye Valley NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Deputy General Manager - Surgical Division (INTERNAL) job (opens in a new window) [19]

**Deputy Ward Manager - Surgical High Care**

Newport, NP20 2UB

Salary:
   £35922.00 to £43257.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Deputy Ward Manager - Surgical High Care job (opens in a new window) [20]

Other roles that may interest you

- Operating department practitioner [2]
- Theatre nurse [1]
- Theatre support worker [21]
- General surgery [22]

Partner logos


Links