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

Find a vacancy

Surgical Services Matron
West Bromwich, B71 4HJ
Salary: £50952.00 to £57349.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Surgical Services Matron job (opens in a new window)

Surgical Care Practitioner - Robotics
Bristol, BS2 8HW

Salary: £43742.00 to £50056.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW)
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Surgical Care Practitioner - Robotics job (opens in a new window)

Surgical Care Practitioner (XR07)

Leeds, LS9 7TF

Salary: £43742.00 to £50056.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Leeds Teaching Hospitals
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Surgical Care Practitioner (XR07) job (opens in a new window)

Surgical Advanced Clinical Practitioner

Worcester, WR5 1DD
Redditch, B98 7UB

Salary: £35392.00 to £42618.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Surgical Advanced Clinical Practitioner job (opens in a new window)

Trainee Cardiothoracic Surgical Care Practitioner

London, EC1A 7BE

Salary: £51488.00 to £57802.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Barts Health NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trainee Cardiothoracic Surgical Care Practitioner job (opens in a new window)
Ward Manager, Children's Surgical Ward

London, SE5 9RS

Salary: £51488.00 to £57802.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Ward Manager, Children's Surgical Ward job (opens in a new window)

Advanced Clinical Practitioner, Surgical Dermatology

Bury St Edmunds, IP33 2QZ

Salary: £50952.00 to £57349.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Advanced Clinical Practitioner, Surgical Dermatology job (opens in a new window)

Operational Manager - Non-Surgical Cancer Services

Torquay, TQ2 7AA

Salary: £43742.00 to £50056.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Operational Manager - Non-Surgical Cancer Services job (opens in a new window)

Qualified / Trainee Breast Surgical Care Practitioner

Brighton & Haywards Heath, RH164EX

Salary: £35392.00 to £50056.00
Type: Permanent
Employer:
  University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (279)
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Qualified / Trainee Breast Surgical Care Practitioner job (opens in a new window)  

- **Rota Coordinator - Planned and Surgical Care**
  Harrogate, HG2 7SX
  Salary:
  £25147.00 to £27596.00
  Type:
  Permanent
  Employer:
  Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
  Apply now on NHS Jobs for Rota Coordinator - Planned and Surgical Care job (opens in a new window)  

- **Surgical Breast Care CNS - Band 6**
  Warwickshire, CV22 5PX
  Salary:
  £35392.00 to £42618.00
  Type:
  Fixed-Term
  Employer:
  University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust
  Apply now on NHS Jobs for Surgical Breast Care CNS - Band 6 job (opens in a new window)  

- **Care Support Worker - adult wards (elderly care, medical, surgical)**
  Harrogate, HG2 7SX
  Salary:
  £22383.00
  Type:
  Permanent
  Employer:
  Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
  Apply now on NHS Jobs for Care Support Worker - adult wards (elderly care, medical, surgical) job (opens in a new window)  

- **General Manager Urology, Breast & Vascular, Surgical Division, Band 8b**
Gloucestershire, GL1 3NN

Salary:
£58972.00 to £68525.00

Type:
Fixed-Term

Employer:
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for General Manager Urology, Breast & Vascular, Surgical Division, Band 8b job (opens in a new window)

Other roles that may interest you

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

Partner logos


Links
[6] https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/
[18] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9218-23-1447
https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9381-23-0910
https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9387-23-2664
https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9298-CRS-154
https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9365-23-1078
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