

# Orthopaedic practitioner

Orthopaedic practitioners help patients recover from injury or surgery as quickly as possible by making sure casts and splints are fitted correctly.

## Working life

As an orthopaedic practitioner, you'll apply casts and splints to patients following an accident or surgery or for particular orthopaedic conditions. Casts and splints are used to keep limbs and joints in position while they heal.

orthopaedic sign

You'll need to use the most suitable technique and material. Casts can be made from:

You'll need to use the most suitable technique and material.

- plaster of Paris
- fibreglass
- polypropylene
- polyester substrates

You may also:

- advise patients after the splint or cast has been fitted, sometimes over the phone
- apply dressings to wounds
- remove dressings and stitches from wounds
- remove casts and splints
- order supplies
- update patients' records

You may be known as a casting technician or plaster technician.

Orthopaedic practitioners work in trauma and orthopaedic clinics. They may work with patients of all ages and conditions or they may specialise in, for example, children or older people.

## Entry requirements

Employers expect good numeracy and literacy. They may ask for GCSEs. Employers may also ask for a qualification such as an NVQ or BTEC in health care. It may be possible to enter by working as a healthcare assistant <sup>[1]</sup> or clinical support worker <sup>[2]</sup> in a trauma and orthopaedic clinic. Once you have experience of working with patients you could approach the casting room staff to ask for an opportunity to get experience of casting work.

## Skills and personal characteristics

As an orthopaedic practitioner, you need to be:

- confident and reassuring
- able to deal with people who are upset
- happy to be hands-on with patients
- willing to work with messy materials
- able to follow procedures
- able to work quickly and carefully
- able to work alone or in a team

You'll also need:

- good manual (hand) skills
- organisation skills
- good communication skills
- the ability to explain treatment to patients and to offer advice as appropriate

## Training and development

To become a fully qualified orthopaedic practitioner, you need to take the British Casting Certificate. You can take the five-week course as a block or by day release. To get on the course, you need at least a year's experience of casting work.

### • Pay and conditions

Clinical support staff working in the NHS are paid on the Agenda for Change (AfC) <sup>[3]</sup> pay system. As an orthopaedic practitioner you will typically start on AfC <sup>[4]</sup> band 3. With further training and experience, you could apply for more senior positions at bands 4 and 5. Orthopaedic practitioners work standard hours of around 37.5 a week. They may work shifts, which could involve nights, early starts, evenings and weekends. Terms and conditions will usually be different for clinical support staff working outside of the NHS.

### • Where the role can lead

You could progress to senior roles within the plaster room. You could apply to train as an [assistant practitioner](#) [5] or with the appropriate qualifications for entry to university, train as a healthcare professional such as [nurse](#) [6], [physiotherapist](#) [7], or [prosthetist/orthotist](#) [8].

## • Job market and vacancies

If you're applying for a role either directly in the NHS or in an organisation that provides NHS services, you'll be asked to show how you think the NHS values apply in your everyday work. [Find out more about NHS values](#) [9].

Most NHS trusts advertise their vacancies on [NHS Jobs](#) [10]. Some of the current vacancies are below.

## Find a vacancy

Enter your location or postcode

Show results within

Search

### ◦ Senior Orthopaedic Practitioner

Hereford, HR1 2ER

Salary:

£31049.00 to £37796.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Wye Valley NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Orthopaedic Practitioner job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [11]

### ◦ Orthopaedic Practitioner - Plaster Room

King's Lynn, PE30 4ET

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHSFT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Orthopaedic Practitioner - Plaster Room job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

- **Bank Theatre Practitioner Orthopaedics**

Leeds, LS1 3EB

Salary:

£30.00 to £35.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

Nuffield Health

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Bank Theatre Practitioner Orthopaedics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

- **Theatre Practitioner - Orthopaedic Scrub**

Caterham, CR3 6DP

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Ramsay Health Care UK Operations Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Theatre Practitioner - Orthopaedic Scrub job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

- **Theatre Practitioner (Trauma & Orthopaedic Theatres)**

Reading, RG1 5AN

Salary:

£31049.00 to £37796.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Theatre Practitioner \(Trauma & Orthopaedic Theatres\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

- **Advanced Clinical Practitioner - Hampshire Orthopaedic Centre**

Winchester, SO22 5DG

Salary:

£55690.00 to £62682.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Advanced Clinical Practitioner - Hampshire Orthopaedic Centre job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

- **Band 6 - Orthopaedic Scrub Practitioner, Theatres**

St Albans, AL3 5PN

Salary:

£40617.00 to £48778.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

West Hertfordshire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 6 - Orthopaedic Scrub Practitioner, Theatres job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[17]</sup>

- **Physiotherapy Practitioner – Neuro-Orthopaedics Cerebral Palsy**

Liverpool, L12 2HP

Salary:

£55690.00 to £62682.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Physiotherapy Practitioner – Neuro-Orthopaedics Cerebral Palsy job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[18]</sup>

- **Therapy Assistant Practitioner - Trauma and Orthopaedics**

Lancaster, LA1 4RP

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Therapy Assistant Practitioner - Trauma and Orthopaedics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[19]</sup>

- **Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon**

Shepton Mallet, BA4 4LP

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[20]</sup>

- **Orthopaedic Unit Manager**

Bedford, MK42 9DJ

Salary:

£47810.00 to £54710.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Orthopaedic Unit Manager job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[21]</sup>

- **Deputy Sister/Senior Operating Department Practitioner – Orthopaedics**

Dorchester, DT1 2JY

Salary:

£38682.00 to £46580.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Deputy Sister/Senior Operating Department Practitioner – Orthopaedics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[22]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon**

Camberwell, SE5 9RS

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[23]</sup>

- **Senior Orthopaedic Occupational Therapist**

Swindon, SN3 6BB

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Orthopaedic Occupational Therapist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[24]</sup>

- **Consultant in Trauma & Orthopaedics**

Llantrisant, CF72 8XR

Salary:

£110240.00 to £160951.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Trauma & Orthopaedics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[25]</sup>

- **Clinic Clerk - Trauma & Orthopaedic**

Wirral, CH49 5PE

Salary:

£24169.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Wirral University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinic Clerk - Trauma & Orthopaedic job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[26]</sup>

- **Orthopaedics - Operational Support Manager**

London, N19 5NR

Salary:

£37259.00 to £45356.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Whittington Hospital NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Orthopaedics - Operational Support Manager job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[27]</sup>

- **Specialist Physiotherapist - Inpatient Orthopaedics**

Haywards Heath, RH16 4EX

Salary:

£38682.00 to £46580.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (279)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Physiotherapist - Inpatient Orthopaedics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[28]</sup>

- **Consultant Surgeon - Orthopaedics & Trauma**

Braddan, IM4 4RJ

Salary:

£107208.00 to £185166.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Manx Care

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Surgeon - Orthopaedics & Trauma job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[29]</sup>

- **Plaster Practitioner/Technician**

Dorchester, DT1 2JY

Salary:

£31049.00 to £37796.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Plaster Practitioner/Technician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[30]</sup>

- **Consultant Trauma & Orthopaedics - Foot & Ankle**

NCA Wide, BL9 7TD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent



Employer:

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Trauma & Orthopaedics - Foot & Ankle job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[31]</sup>

- **Staff Nurse - Trauma and Orthopaedics**

Tunbridge Wells, TN2 4QJ

Salary:

£31049.00 to £37796.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Staff Nurse - Trauma and Orthopaedics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[32]</sup>

- **Senior Medical Secretary - Trauma & Orthopaedics**

Stockport, SK2 7JE

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Medical Secretary - Trauma & Orthopaedics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[33]</sup>

- **Deputy ward manager - Emergency Orthopaedic**

Ashton-under-lyne, OL6 9RW

Salary:

£38682.00 to £46580.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Deputy ward manager - Emergency Orthopaedic job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[34]</sup>

- **Paediatric Orthopaedic and Trauma Fellowship**

Sheffield, S10 2TH

Salary:

£49909.00 to £70425.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Paediatric Orthopaedic and Trauma Fellowship job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[35]</sup>

- **Medical Secretary - Trauma and Orthopaedics**

Walsall, WS2 9PS

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Medical Secretary - Trauma and Orthopaedics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[36]</sup>

- **Registered Nurse - Trauma and Orthopaedic**

Llantrisant, CF72 8XR

Salary:

£31516.00 to £38364.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Registered Nurse - Trauma and Orthopaedic job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[37]</sup>

- **Trauma Fellow - Trauma & Orthopaedic Department**

Reading, RG1 5AN

Salary:

£61825.00 to £70425.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trauma Fellow - Trauma & Orthopaedic Department job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[38]</sup>

- **Consultant in Trauma and Orthopaedics**

Derby, DE22 3NE

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Trauma and Orthopaedics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[39]</sup>

- **Trauma and Orthopaedics Physiotherapy Team Lead**

London, N19 5NF

Salary:

£56276.00 to £63176.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Whittington Hospital NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trauma and Orthopaedics Physiotherapy Team Lead job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[40]</sup>

- **Junior Clinical Fellow (F3) - Trauma & Orthopaedics**

Reading, RG1 5AN

Salary:

£49909.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Junior Clinical Fellow \(F3\) - Trauma & Orthopaedics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[41]</sup>

- **Care Group Pharmacist - Trauma and Orthopaedics**

Southampton, SO16 6YD

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospital Southampton NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Care Group Pharmacist - Trauma and Orthopaedics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[42]</sup>

- **Team Lead Occupational Therapist- Trauma and Orthopaedics**

Gillingham, ME7 5NY

Salary:

£47810.00 to £54710.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Medway NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Team Lead Occupational Therapist- Trauma and Orthopaedics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[43]</sup>

- **Consultant in Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery (HIPS)**

Exeter, EX2 5DW

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery \(HIPS\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[44]</sup>

- **Specialist Physiotherapist Trauma and Orthopaedics and Vascular**

London, W2 1NY

Salary:

£44806.00 to £53134.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Physiotherapist Trauma and Orthopaedics and Vascular job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[45]</sup>

- **Team Lead Occupational Therapist (Trauma and Orthopaedics)**

Exeter, EX2 5DW

Salary:

£38682.00 to £46580.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Team Lead Occupational Therapist \(Trauma and Orthopaedics\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[46]</sup>

- **Highly Specialist Physiotherapist: Paediatric Orthopaedics and Spines**

Nottingham, NG7 2UH

Salary:

£47810.00 to £54710.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trusts

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Highly Specialist Physiotherapist: Paediatric Orthopaedics and Spines job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[47]</sup>

- **Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon – Upper Limb or Shoulder & Elbow**

Shepton Mallet, BA4 4LP

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon – Upper Limb or Shoulder & Elbow job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[48]</sup>

- **Consultant Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgeon, Hand and Wrist**

Wythenshawe, M23 9LT

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgeon, Hand and Wrist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[49]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant in Trauma & Orthopaedics (Hip & Knee Arthroplasty)**

Telford, TF1 6TF

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant in Trauma & Orthopaedics \(Hip & Knee Arthroplasty\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[50]</sup>

- **Consultant Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgeon, Hand and Wrist**

Wythenshawe, M23 9LT

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgeon, Hand and Wrist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[49]</sup>

- **Band 4 Therapy Support Worker - Trauma and Orthopaedic**

Sutton Coldfield, B75 7RR

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 4 Therapy Support Worker - Trauma and Orthopaedic job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[51]</sup>

- **Staff Nurse Trauma & Orthopaedics - Band 5 (Internal Only)**

Victoria Road, Macclesfield, SK10 3BL

Salary:

£31049.00 to £37796.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

East Cheshire NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Staff Nurse Trauma & Orthopaedics - Band 5 \(Internal Only\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[52]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant in Major Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery**

Leeds, LS1 3EX

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

Leeds Teaching Hospitals

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant in Major Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[53]</sup>

- **Trust Doctor ST3+Level in Trauma and Orthopaedics**

London, E11 1NR

Salary:

£50175.00 to £67610.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Barts Health NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trust Doctor ST3+Level in Trauma and Orthopaedics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[54]</sup>

- **Pharmacy Technician/Science Manufacturing Technician -Aseptic Services**

Carlisle, CA2 7HY

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Pharmacy Technician/Science Manufacturing Technician -Aseptic Services job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[55]</sup>

- **Pharmacy Technician**

London, NW10 2PB

Salary:

£15.00 to £18.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

K&W Healthcare Ltd

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Pharmacy Technician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[56]</sup>

- **Pharmacy Technician**

Hartlepool, TS25 1AX

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hartlepool Network

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Pharmacy Technician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [57]

- **Pharmacy Technician**

Croydon, CR0 6SD

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East Croydon Medical Centre

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Pharmacy Technician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [58]

- **Pharmacy Technician**

Potton, SG19 2QS

Sandy, SG19 3JR

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Greensands Medical Practice

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Pharmacy Technician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [59]

- **Pharmacy Technician**

Croydon, CR0 6SD

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East Croydon Medical Centre

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Pharmacy Technician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [58]

- **Pharmacy Technician**



London, E9 6SR

Salary:

£34089.00 to £41498.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East London NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Pharmacy Technician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [60]

- **Pharmacy Technician**

Stafford, ST16 3AW

Salary:

£28247.00 to £32346.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Pharmacy Technician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [61]

- **Therapy Technician**

Bristol, BS2 8HW

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Therapy Technician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [62]

- **Pharmacy Technician**

Doncaster , DN5 8UX

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Pharmacy Technician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [63]

- **Pharmacy Technician**

Leeds, LS25 7JN  
Monk Fryston, LS25 5DU

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Gibson Lane Practice

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Pharmacy Technician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [64]

- **Pharmacy Technician**

Henley on Thames, RG9 5SB

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Pharmacy Technician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [65]

- **Mortuary Technician**

Stevenage, SG1 4AB

Salary:

£18.52

Type:

Bank

Employer:

NHS Professionals Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Mortuary Technician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [66]

- **Plaster Technician**

Brentwood, CM15 8EH

Salary:

£20.00 to £25.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

Nuffield Health

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Plaster Technician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [67]

- **Pharmacy Technician**

Newmarket, CB8 9YG

Salary:

£28247.00 to £36500.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Pharmacy Technician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [68]

## • Further information

- [Association of Orthopaedic Practitioners](#) [69]
- [British Orthopaedic Association](#) [70]
- [Orthopaedic and Trauma Alliance](#) [71]

## Other roles that may interest you

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