

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB DETAILS	
Job Title	Speech & Language Therapist
Reports to	Lead Speech & Language Therapist
Band	Band 5
Department/Division	Speech and Language therapy/ Clinical Specialist Services

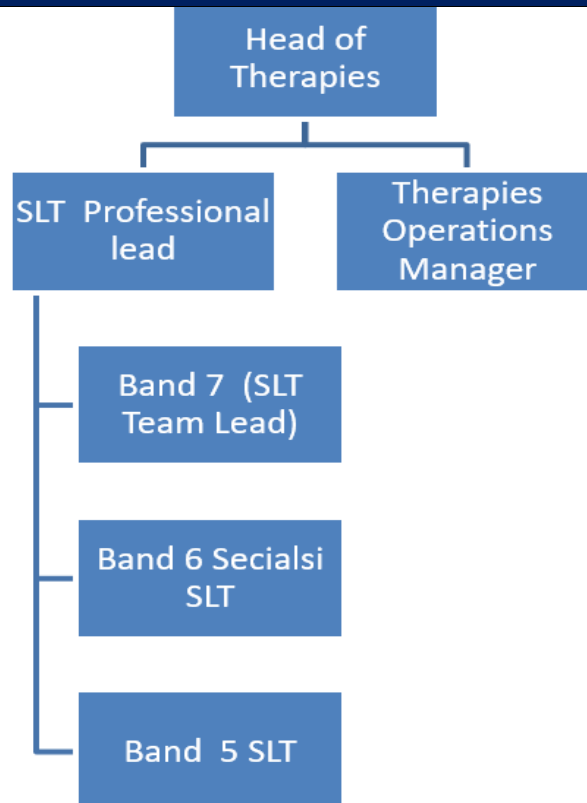
JOB PURPOSE
The post holder is responsible for the provision of a speech and language therapy service for adults with acquired disorders of communication and swallowing across general medical and stroke inpatient wards at North Devon District Hospital. This will require knowledge, skill and judgement across a broad range of disorders and client groups. Working under the supervision of the Lead SLTs, the post holder will take delegated responsibility for a caseload comprising adults with acquired disorders of communication and swallowing. It will routinely include complex cases. Caseloads will be flexible and at times will involve the provision of service to other areas of the Trust.

KEY RESULT AREAS/PRINCIPAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
The post holder will: • Provide assessment, differential diagnosis and treatment of adults with acquired disorders of communication and swallowing. • Use a holistic, person-centred approach to devise and coordinate care plans in collaboration with patients, carers and multidisciplinary and multi-agency teams. • Take an active role in discharge planning, ensuring a seamless transfer to other teams and services when needed. • Assist with training and education for patients, relatives, carers and staff. • Work flexibly to provide cover for absence, support for other teams as required. • Some services within Therapies are currently required to participate in weekend working and bank holiday cover. • Uphold Trust values at all times. • Adhere to HCPC and RCSLT professional standards of practice.

KEY WORKING RELATIONSHIPS
The post holder is required to deal effectively with staff of all levels throughout the Trust as and when they encounter on a day to day basis. In addition, the post holder may deal with the wider healthcare community, external organisations and the public. This will include verbal, written and electronic media. Of particular importance are working relationships with:

Internal to Trust	External to Trust
• Lead Speech & Language Therapists • Other members of the Speech & Language Therapy Service • Ward based multidisciplinary teams and Community Rehabilitation teams • Head of Speech & Language Therapy • Therapy Services colleagues • Consultants and other medical staff	• Patients, families and carers • Colleagues in other NHS Trusts and healthcare organisations • GPs • Social care • Voluntary organisations supporting patient care

ORGANISATIONAL CHART



FREEDOM TO ACT

- With appropriate support, take responsibility for and prioritise own workload and decision making to ensure that overall objectives are met, with the patient being the main focus.
- Use own judgement to negotiate, problem solve and make decisions in the absence of line manager.

COMMUNICATION/RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

- Communicate complex condition-related information to patients, carers, relatives and members of the multidisciplinary team/other agencies in a way that is accessible and easily understood. This will include identifying facilitative strategies for people with communication and/or cognitive disorders and other barriers to understanding.
- Maintain close collaboration with other members of the multidisciplinary team through joint working and effective communication regarding treatment aims, progress and discharge planning (providing written reports and referrals as appropriate).
- Provide appropriate and timely information to all relevant members of the healthcare team regarding patients' speech and language therapy requirements and changes in progress.
- Identify patient priorities and choices and plan intervention to accurately incorporate these wishes.

- Work closely with speech and language therapy colleagues to ensure consistency and seamless transfers of care.

ANALYTICAL/JUDGEMENTAL SKILLS

- Analysis and interpretation of complex facts and situations to develop appropriate treatment plans from a range of options.
- Ongoing evaluation of outcomes, adapting intervention as necessary.

PLANNING/ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS

- With support from Lead as required, ongoing planning, organisation and prioritisation of own clinical and non-clinical workload, including teaching.
- Identify and escalate shortfalls and risks.

PATIENT/CLIENT CARE

With an appropriate level of support:

- Complete a full and appropriate assessment for patients as required, ensuring advice and decision making are evidenced-based.
- Reassess patient status as treatment progresses and alter treatment programmes if necessary using clinical reasoning.
- Negotiate appropriate treatment goals with patients, drawing on a range of options, undertaking regular re-evaluation and using appropriate outcome measures.
- Identify and develop the communicative competence of patients with disorders of communication, helping them to improve their communication skills and be actively involved in decision making/goal planning wherever possible.
- Ensure that families/carers and other professionals/staff are aware of the patient's communicative competence, and develop the former's ability to interact effectively using appropriate strategies.
- Take a balanced, person-centred approach to the ethical considerations of dysphagia management.
- Facilitate the empowerment of patients in the therapeutic process.
- Communicate effectively with patients and carers to maximise rehabilitation potential, ensure understanding of their condition and a safe and efficient discharge.
- Liaise and co-ordinate with other professionals to ensure that speech and language therapy interventions are an integral component of the patients' multidisciplinary care package and actively support and promote the discharge process.
- Ensure patient and staff safety during treatment and be able to take appropriate decisions with regards to risk.

POLICY/SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

- Contribute to the development of care guidelines, protocols and evidence-base in order to inform practice.
- Participate in team and department audit activity and peer review to ensure best practice.

FINANCIAL/PHYSICAL RESOURCES

- Responsible for the efficient use of resources within the service and advise on appropriate resource requirements.
- Responsible for the safe use of equipment and report any repairs which need to be undertaken.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Contribute to the supervision of non-registered staff as required.
- Provide training to multidisciplinary team members as required.
- Contribute to the provision of undergraduate student placements.
- Contribute to the induction of new staff.

INFORMATION RESOURCES
• Keep timely and accurate clinical records and handle these records and all other clinical information in accordance with applicable legislation, protocols and guidelines. • Provide full, accurate and timely statistical data. • Submit regular activity data as required.
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
• Participate in relevant audit and research activity. • Participate in clinical trials as appropriate.
PHYSICAL SKILLS
• Well-developed and accurate auditory and perceptual skills for the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of adults with acquired disorders of communication and swallowing. • Moving and handling in line with Trust policy and procedure, including patients with complex disabilities. • Skills in the use of equipment and technology for specialist clinical care.
PHYSICAL EFFORT
• Clinical intervention frequently involves sitting or standing in an awkward position. • Moving and handling of patients in relation to assessment, treatment and rehabilitation.
MENTAL EFFORT
• Clinical intervention frequently requires intense concentration, including in busy environments with multiple interruptions.
EMOTIONAL EFFORT
• Frequently working with people in distressing or emotional circumstances. • Required to have difficult conversations e.g. breaking unwelcome news about swallowing/communication diagnoses.
WORKING CONDITIONS
• Exposure to body waste and fluids as part of clinical interventions. • Occasional aggressive behaviour when dealing with face to face complaints.
OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES
Take part in regular performance appraisal. Undertake any training required in order to maintain competency including mandatory training e.g. Manual Handling. Contribute to and work within a safe working environment. You are expected to comply with Trust Infection Control Policies and conduct yourself at all times in such a manner as to minimise the risk of healthcare associated infection. As an employee of the Trust, it is a contractual duty that you abide by any relevant code of professional conduct and/or practice applicable to you. A breach of this requirement may result in action being taken against you (in accordance with the Trust's disciplinary policy) up to and including dismissal. You must also take responsibility for your workplace health and wellbeing: • When required, gain support from Occupational Health, Human Resources or other sources.

- Familiarise yourself with the health and wellbeing support available from policies and/or Occupational Health.
- Follow the Trust's health and wellbeing vision of healthy body, healthy mind, healthy you.
- Undertake a Display Screen Equipment assessment (DSE) if appropriate to role.

DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE CHECKS

This post has been identified as involving access to vulnerable adults and/or children and in line with Trust policy successful applicants will be required to undertake a Disclosure & Barring Service Disclosure Check.

GENERAL

This is a description of the job as it is now. We periodically examine employees' job descriptions and update them to ensure that they reflect the job as it is then being performed, or to incorporate any changes being proposed. This procedure is conducted by the manager in consultation with the jobholder. You will, therefore, be expected to participate fully in such discussions. We aim to reach agreement on reasonable changes, but if agreement is not possible, we reserve the right to insist on changes to your job description after consultation with you.

Everyone within the Trust has a responsibility for, and is committed to, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of vulnerable adults, children and young people and for ensuring that they are protected from harm, ensuring that the Trusts Child Protection and Safeguarding Adult policies and procedures are promoted and adhered to by all members of staff.

At the Royal Devon, we are committed to reducing our carbon emissions and minimising the impact of healthcare on the environment, as outlined in our Green Plan available on our website. We actively promote sustainable practices and encourage colleagues to explore and implement greener ways of working within their roles.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title	Speech & Language Therapist
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Requirements	Essential	Desirable
QUALIFICATION/ SPECIAL TRAINING Recognised RCSLT degree (or equivalent). HCPC licence to practice. Autonomous practitioner: RCSLT newly qualified practitioner competency framework completed. Competent at foundation level dysphagia practitioner (RCSLT Speech and Language Therapist Eating, drinking and swallowing competency Framework)	E E	D D
KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS Work to the guidance and standards of the RCSLT. Excellent interpersonal skills including observation, listening and empathy. Good negotiation and problem-solving skills. Good analytical and reflection skills. Excellent verbal and written presentation skills. Good planning, organisational and prioritisation skills. Up-to-date knowledge and skills across a broad range of assessment and treatment approaches for acquired disorders of communication and swallowing. Knowledge of relevant RCSLT clinical guidelines and professional standards; able to interpret these to generate assessment and therapy interventions for individual patients. Knowledge of the legal and ethical aspects of capacity/consent and withholding/withdrawing nutrition and hydration. Knowledge and use of evidence-based practice and outcome measurement. Understanding of the principles of clinical governance and audit. Well-developed auditory and perceptual skills. Able to employ counselling skills and provide psychological/emotional support for patients, carers and relatives with complex needs. Able to recognise the limits of own knowledge and skills and seek support/guidance as necessary.	E E E E E E E E E E	D D D D
EXPERIENCE Post-qualification experience of working with people with acquired disorders of swallowing, language and cognition. Post-qualification experience of working as a core member of a multidisciplinary team.		D D
PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES Able to maintain sensitivity at all times to patients, carers and families, especially when imparting distressing information about the nature and implications of profound, long-term communication and swallowing disorders.	E	

WORKING CONDITIONS/HAZARDS		FREQUENCY (Rare/ Occasional/ Moderate/ Frequent)			
		R	O	M	F
Hazards/ Risks requiring Immunisation Screening					
Laboratory specimens	N				
Contact with patients	Y				✓
Exposure Prone Procedures	N				
Blood/body fluids	Y		✓		
Hazard/Risks requiring Respiratory Health Surveillance					
Solvents (e.g. toluene, xylene, white spirit, acetone, formaldehyde and ethyl acetate)	N				
Respiratory sensitisers (e.g isocyanates)	N				
Chlorine based cleaning solutions (e.g. Chlorclean, Actichlor, Tristel)	N				
Animals (Community home visits/ ward visits)	Y		✓		
Cytotoxic drugs	N				
Risks requiring Other Health Surveillance					
Radiation (>6mSv)	Y			✓	
Laser (Class 3R, 3B, 4)	N				
Dusty environment (>4mg/m3)	N				
Noise (over 80dBA)	N				
Hand held vibration tools (=>2.5 m/s2)	N				
Other General Hazards/ Risks					
VDU use (> 1 hour daily)	Y				✓
Heavy manual handling (>10kg)	N				
Driving (Acute)	Y	✓			
Driving (Community)	Y				✓
Food handling	Y				✓
Night working	N				
Electrical work	N				
Physical Effort	Y		✓		
Mental Effort	Y				✓
Emotional Effort	Y				✓
Working in isolation	N				
Challenging behaviour	Y		✓		