

JOB DESCRIPTION

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| **JOB DETAILS** | |
| **Job Title** | Chief Clinical Physiologist |
| **Reports to** | Clinical lead Urology & GI Physiology |
| **Band** | Band 7 |
| **Department/Directorate** | Urodynamics & GI Physiology/Surgical Services |

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| **JOB PURPOSE** |
| Primarily working within the Urological speciality providing specialist healthcare science input to the Urological Physiology services.  Maintaining and developing the departments activities. **K** |
| **KEY RESULT AREAS/PRINCIPAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES** |
| |  | | --- | | * Independently undertakes a range of physiological measurements, often of a complex and non-routine nature.   • Compile a detailed report relating to the physiological measurement investigation via interpretation of relevant technical detail and transferring this into a coherent and understandable format  • Receive and categorise often complex referrals; producing advanced scientific reports.  • Prioritisation of clinical workload to ensure effective delivery of Urological and GI physiology services.  • Participate in regular quality control regimes for all diagnostic equipment, which requires precision and co-ordination.  • Assist in the training of Healthcare Scientists and other Medical / Non-medical Staff where appropriate.  • Ensure patient information leaflets, protocols, PGDs etc. are kept up to date and valid.  • Participate in stock control and ordering  • Participate in the evaluation and commissioning of new equipment when necessary.  • Participate in a rota offering a satellite urodynamics clinic in North Devon. Including travel to Barnstaple in own vehicle.  • Participate in Clinical Audits  • To attend relevant training and educational courses as appropriate  • To help ensure Urological and GI Physiology services are meeting local, national and where necessary international guidelines | |
| **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 will 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 the Trust** | **External to the Trust** | | • Clinical Physiologists  • Clinical Scientists  • Consultant Urologists, Gynaecologists, Gastroenterologists, and Colorectal surgeons  • Bladder and Bowel Care Team  • Clerical/Administrative Staff  • Medical/Nursing Students | Community Bladder & Bowel Care Nurses & Physiotherapists  • Medical Representatives and Engineers  • Clinical Physiologists and Scientists from other trusts.  • Patients and Relatives | |  | |  | |  | |

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| **ORGANISATIONAL CHART** |
| **4. ORGANISATIONAL CHART:**  Senior Nurse in Surgical Services    Clinical lead Urology & GI Physiology    Band 7 Chief Clinical Physiologists (2 x Urological, 2 x Gastrointestinal) + Band 7 Chief Clinical Physiologist (This post)  KEY:  Denotes Line Management accountability |
| **FREEDOM TO ACT** |
| Works as an advanced practitioner in the hospital setting without immediate supervision  Conducts investigations independently without immediate supervision but under managerial and service operating guidelines.  Adheres to professional and organisational standards of practice.  Is professionally accountable for all aspects of your own work, within the context of an autonomous practitioner.  Uses own knowledge, skills and experience to determine when investigation is complete and comprehensive enough to end examination.  Undertakes Interpretation of complex data and compiles investigation reports which rarely require managerial input.  Initiates and leads specific projects as required without immediate supervision but under managerial guidelines  Works with the nursing and medical teams to contribute towards, lead and support decisions about patient care.  Works with the Urological and GI Physiology team manager to lead and support development of the services  Promotes and participates in Clinical Audit to develop and establish standards.  Actively participates in Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meetings to aid decision making around patient care.  Works with other members of the team to identify, assess and develop plans for minimising clinical risk, ensures compliance with Health and Safety policies, and reflects on significant events. |
| **COMMUNICATION/RELATIONSHIP SKILLS** |
| Communication with a range of healthcare professions including Physiologists, Scientists, Nurses, Consultants and Senior Managers, along with Patients and Carers relating to various aspects of the service, including referrals and complex reports which can contain emotionally charged and sometimes time critical information.  Communication of investigation results via Interpretation and assimilation of relevant technical detail into a coherent and understandable written report format is vital. Communication of results can additionally be verbal in nature in order to successfully communicate the results to the necessary multi-disciplinary  teams in a timely manner in relation to on-going patient care. Offers advice to clinicians, where appropriate, on the findings of investigations, and possible further investigations etc.  Communicate with administrative staff relating to patient appointments, referrals, waiting lists and clinic allocation.  Communicate the intricacies of the diagnostic test procedures to the patient/relatives/carers in an appropriate, professional and informative manner. The nature of the complex and sometimes distressing urological and gastrointestinal issues patients are being investigated for requires delicate, sensitive and adaptable communication to meet the needs of a diverse patient population including children and those with learning disabilities, dementia and mental health issues. Tact, reassurance and persuasive skills are often required to guide patients through the investigation and to reassure them that the sometimes embarrassing consequences of the investigative procedure (for example incontinence) are expected and completely acceptable.  Communicate |
| **ANALYTICAL/JUDGEMENTAL SKILLS** |
| Post holder has highly specialised knowledge, training and experience in Urological and Gastrointestinal physiology.  Investigates and assimilates evidence and then interprets the relevance of this evidence to form a report which will guide treatment. Provides expert opinion on the content of reports. Where sections of data/traces are un-interpretable decide if sufficient evidence has been identified from the remaining data or whether the investigation needs to be abandoned/rebooked or whether an alternative investigation is more appropriate.  Additionally, undertakes interpretation and reporting of paediatric and neurological investigations, compiling reports that do not always conform to recognised normal ranges but can be communicated as trends and patterns of function.  Currently holds or is actively working towards UK Continence Society accreditation in Urodynamics, and AGIP accreditation as an independent practitioner, and has a highly specialised understanding of Urological investigative equipment enabling the prompt identification of problems, errors, and equipment failures.  Participates in relevant clinical audits and research. |
| **PLANNING/ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS** |
| |  | | --- | | Plans and prioritises own workload on a daily basis in accordance with clinical demands  Prioritises patient referrals based on clinical urgency  Collaborates across other disciplines and areas in order to arrange and perform patient investigations. Advance planning regarding patients’ appointments which may require communication and planning based on staff and equipment availability or test results.  Works with members of the team to ensure patient information leaflets, protocols, PGDs, risk assessments, etc. are kept up to date and valid, requires organisational skills to ensure these assessments are updated in a timely manner. | |
| **PATIENT/CLIENT CARE** |
| Has direct contact with patients to perform Urological and Gastrointestinal physiology investigations. This involves communicating the nature of investigations, reassuring and responding to patient needs and balancing the requirements of the quality of the investigation against the emotional/support  requirements of the patient. Most tests performed are not passive and require patient input and co-operation, the results of which directly impact on patient treatment and care.  Investigations are adapted as appropriate to align with patients’ abilities, and do not necessarily follow a set process. Physiologist uses own knowledge and skills, and adapts practice to obtain optimal results for the patient.  Often communicates with patients and carers in advance or following an appointment to plan their care or offer advice post-procedure. Communication can be in both verbal and/or written format  Treats all patient information with confidentiality in accordance with relevant policies |
| **POLICY/SERVICE DEVELOPMENT** |
| |  | | --- | | Contributes towards the development of Urological and Gastrointestinal Physiology investigations including the development of Standard Operating Procedures, Patient Information leaflets, Protocols, Patient Group Directives, and Clinical Audits  Investigations are adapted as appropriate to align with patients’ abilities, and do not necessarily follow a set process. Physiologist uses own knowledge and skills, and adapts practice to obtain optimal results for the patient.  Attends national/international conferences and meetings in order to inform and update clinical practise.  Keeps up to date on relevant clinical guidance and policies and applies this into practice as agreed locally.  Involved in evaluating and commissioning new urodynamic equipment.  Undertakes scientific work to calculate optimal setting for urodynamic equipment | |
| **FINANCIAL/PHYSICAL RESOURCES** |
| |  | | --- | |  | | Contributes towards the evaluation of new equipment and consumables associated with the service.  Calibrates equipment and ensures the accuracy/validity of data.  Participates in stock control ensuring items are ordered items in a timely manner in suitable quantities.  Communicates with company representatives to obtain quotes for stock and relating to equipment repairs.  Participate in regular quality control and calibration regimes for diagnostic equipment used.  Contributes towards the undertaking of risk assessments to help ensure the safety and security of staff, patients and others. | |
| **HUMAN RESOURCES** |
| |  | | --- | | Involved in delivering teaching and training to multi-disciplinary staff relating to the investigations undertaken in the department  Participates in delivering Ultrasound Bladder Scanning courses and assesses competencies of staff following such training.  Facilitates and supervises the development of other Physiologists, Nurses and Healthcare Assistants within the service as appropriate | |
| **INFORMATION RESOURCES** |
| The majority of the investigative equipment utilised is computer operated and utilises software and databases which are frequently used to record and analyse data, and to compile reports.( Eg Investigations are conducted on specialist equipment ,then uploaded to the network location. They are then downloaded to the postholders desktop or laptop for analysis and compilation of a diagnostic report) Additionally, the role involves producing scientific reports that require interpretation, statistical analysis and graphical presentation utilising nomograms and figures that are compared to normal ranges. These reports are complex and inform patient care and treatment.  Post holder participates in Clinical audit, the results of which require statistical interpretation and which inform patient care.  Utilises computers for other activities such as compiling risk reports, documenting communication with patients, staff and others |
| **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT** |
| Involved in evaluating and commissioning new urodynamic equipment.  Undertakes scientific work to calculate optimal settings for urodynamic equipment  Participates in clinical audits.  Contributes to national research projects.  Ensures clinical practice developments are based on best available evidence and participates in the development of evidence based clinical guidelines and protocols for the Urological and GI Physiology services  Reviews and disseminate new information to relevant staff.  Conducts regular calibration as a part of quality control process using quantitative measuring instruments. Maintain or keep a log report of calibrated values which is referenced to a known or recommended set of parameters. |
| **PHYSICAL SKILLS** |
| Involved in daily clinics involving delicate procedures of an invasive (eg Urethral catheterisation /passing pressure catheters per rectum) and non-invasive (eg Bladder Scanning /performing a flow rate) nature where the patient may be distressed, in discomfort or uncooperative. The ability to perform speedy, accurate and precise investigation and analysis enables diagnosis, and limits patients’ distress and discomfort.  Setting up of equipment requires precision and co-ordination to ensure water filled lines, infusion sets, syringes, pullers and pumps are set up optimally.  Participate in regular quality control regimes for all our diagnostic equipment, which require precision and co-ordination.  Attends |
| **PHYSICAL EFFORT** |
| |  | | --- | | Manual handling to assist patients as appropriate some of whom may be inpatients, elderly or frail.  Stock control involving moving and unpacking boxes of consumables  Moving equipment around rooms  Moving Ultrasound scanner to wards  Urological investigations involve working in confined and restrictive space and conditions due to the nature of the equipment and its proximity to the patient.  Clinics are carried out daily  Role involves travelling to Barnstaple to provide Urodynamics service at Northern Devon Healthcare Trust as part of a rota. | |
| **MENTAL EFFORT** |
| |  | | --- | | Frequent periods of concentration required in order to set up, conduct, analyse and report on highly specialised investigations, whilst ensuring that local and national guidance is adhered to.  Frequent periods of concentration required to triage and categorise referrals.  Frequent periods of concentration required to conduct quality control regimes for diagnostic equipment.  Occasional periods of concentration required to train Healthcare Scientists and other Medical / Non-medical Staff.  Occasional periods of concentration required to ensure patient information leaflets, protocols, PGDs etc. are kept up to date and valid.  Frequent periods of concentration required to undertake stock control and ordering  Occasional periods of concentration required to participate in the evaluation and commissioning of new equipment when necessary.  Frequent periods of concentration required to participate in a rota offering a satellite clinic in North Devon.  Concentration required to maintain and improve in-depth specialist knowledge within clinical field | |
| **EMOTIONAL EFFORT** |
| Patients frequently attend with distressing, life limiting conditions, or life-threatening conditions (for example distressing incontinence or prostate/bladder cancer) which requires delicate, sensitive and adaptable communication. Postholder will not directly be giving bad news.  Sensitive and adaptable communication need to meet the needs of the diverse patient population seen (including children and those with learning disabilities, dementia and mental health issues.) |
| **WORKING CONDITIONS** |
| Patients can occasionally become aggressive and threatening, and appropriate communication is required to diffuse the situation.  Exposure to bodily fluids such as urine, faeces and occasionally vomiting is expected. |
| **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 him/herself 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 (DES) if appropriate to role. |
| **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.  Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust continue to develop our long standing partnership with a view to becoming a single integrated organisation across Eastern and Northern Devon. Working together gives us the opportunity to offer unique and varied careers across our services combining the RD&E’s track record of excellence in research, teaching and links to the university with NDHT’s innovation and adaptability.  T*his is* |

PERSON SPECIFICATION

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| **Job Title** | Chief Clinical Physiologist |

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| **Requirements** | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| **QUALIFICATION/ SPECIAL TRAINING**  BTEC Level 4 Diploma in Healthcare Science specialising in Urological and Gastrointestinal physiology modules (or equivalent / higher level qualification in a relevant Clinical Physiology / Healthcare Science discipline)  Master’s degree in Clinical Physiology via the NHS Scientist Training Programme, OR the Higher Specialist Scientist Training Programme OR EQUIVALENT TRAINING & EXPERIENCE)  Minimum of two years specialist training in Urological and GI Physiology at Band 6 level  Completion of Bristol Urological Institute ‘Basic Urodynamics Course’ (or equivalent)  Completion of Bristol Urological Institute ‘Certificate in Urodynamics’ course (or equivalent)  Accreditation with UKCS in Urodynamics  Completion of ASP or STP course approved by AGIP  Accreditation with AGIP as an independent practitioner.  Healthcare / Scientific / Medical Qualification at Degree Level (Level 6)  Portfolio of specific training courses and experiences. | E  E  E  E  E  E  E | D  D  D |
| **KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS**  Specialist knowledge of Urological Physiology and Disorders  Excellent presentation skills  Practiced in evaluating physiological tracings/results  Practiced in producing diagnostic reports.  Competent in the use of computers and electronic systems.  Skilled in taking a clinical history.  Willing to complete training for additional clinical skills required  Evidence of continued professional development  Evidence of an ability to critically appraise and utilise research to maintain and improve patient care.  Practiced in dealing with specialist technical equipment  Experience of working on projects that require technical / analytical skills | E  E  E  E  E  E  E  E  E  E  E |  |
| **EXPERIENCE**  Recent experience of working within the urological specialism for a minimum of one year at Band 6 level or above.  Working as part of a multi-disciplinary team. | E  E |  |
| **PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES**  Excellent interpersonal / communication skills at all levels.  Planning, organisational and prioritisation skills.  Accurate and methodical.  Highly motivated and enthusiastic.  Remain calm in a busy environment.  Empathetic and caring.  Cope with emotional and difficult circumstances.  Able to work as part of a multi-disciplinary team. | E  E  E  E  E  E  E E |  |
| **OTHER REQUIREMENTS**  The post holder must demonstrate a positive commitment to uphold diversityand equality policies approved by the Trust.  Flexible working practices  Ability to travel to other locations as required. | E  E  E |  |

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