

JOB DESCRIPTION

1. General Information

JOB TITLE: Cardiac Surgical Care Practitioner

AREA/SPECIALITY: Cardiovascular

GRADE: 8a

DEPARTMENT: Cardiac Surgery

RESPONSIBLE TO: Lead Cardiac Surgeon & Head of Nursing, Cardiovascular.

ACCOUNTABLE TO: Perfusion Services Manager, Deputy Perfusion Services Manager.

LOCATION: Cardiac Theatres, East Wing St Thomas'

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust comprises five of the UK's best known hospitals – Guy's, St Thomas', Evelina London Children's Hospital, Royal Brompton and Harefield – as well as community services in Lambeth and Southwark, all with a long history of high quality care, clinical excellence, research and innovation.

We are among the UK's busiest, most successful foundation trusts. We provide specialist care for patients including heart and lung, cancer and renal services as well as a full range of local hospital and community services for people in Lambeth and Southwark.

We have a long tradition of clinical and scientific achievement and – as part of King's Health Partners – we are one of England's eight academic health sciences centres, bringing together world-class clinical services, teaching and research. We have one of the National Institute for Health Research's biomedical research centres, established with King's College London in 2007, as well as dedicated clinical research facilities.

We have around 22,700 staff, making us one of the largest NHS Trusts in the country and one of the biggest employers locally. We aim to reflect the diversity of the communities we serve and continue to develop new and existing partnerships with local people, patients, neighbouring NHS organisations, local authorities and charitable bodies and GPs. We strive to recruit and retain the best staff as the dedication and skills of our employees lie at the heart of our organisation and ensure that our services are of the highest quality, safe and focused on our patients.

Department Information

The SCP Department is a compact team of highly specialised practitioners who work alongside the Cardiovascular Surgeons in the delivery of adult cardiac surgery at St Thomas' Hospital. They are expected to provide cover for services round the clock, 365 days of the year via a suitable department roster and an out – of – hours on call system.

The surgical care practitioner will be able to provide skilled and consistent assistance in all aspects of elective and emergency adult cardiac surgery.

They form an integral and necessary component of the delivery of Cardiac services within the Trust.

2. Organisational Values:

Our **values** help us define and develop our culture, **what we do** and **how we do it**. It is important that you understand and reflect these values throughout your employment with the Trust.

The post holder will:

- **Put patients first**
- **Take pride in what they do**
- **Respect others**
- **Strive to be the best**
- **Act with integrity**

Our [values and behaviours framework](#) describes what it means for every one of us in the Trust to put our values into action.

3. Job Summary

Surgical Care Practitioners are an integral part of the safe, effective and high-quality patient care pathway within the Cardiovascular Directorate.

They provide surgical assistance, either as 1st or 2nd assistant during routine and emergency adult cardiac surgery. The post holder will demonstrate extensive expertise in autonomously harvesting appropriate conduit using existing and emerging technologies for coronary artery bypass procedures, which includes both saphenous vein and radial artery.

The post holder will use excellent communication skills to liaise and work alongside the multidisciplinary team. They will support, teach and educate trainees within their own department, junior surgeons and other members of the multidisciplinary team.

4. Key Relationships

The surgical care practitioners are required to work in a multidisciplinary team to safely and consistently deliver the best possible patient outcomes for those requiring elective or emergency adult cardiac surgery.

As such they are required to liaise with;

- Consultant & junior cardiac Surgeons
- Consultant & junior cardiac anaesthetists
- Theatre Matron / Sister and other theatre staff
- Perfusionists
- Directorate Management Team
- Ward staff
- Cardiac Catheter Laboratory staff
- Post - operative recovery (Overnight Intensive Recovery & Intensive Care)
- Infection Control

5. Duties and Responsibilities

Pre – operative

- To display diagnostic images and have the ability to interpret angiograms
- Effective preoperative assessment of the cardiac surgical patient, including the examination and assessment of conduit harvesting sites.
- Provide patients and their carers with accurate information relevant to their care and education enabling them to make lifestyle choices.
- Act as patient advocate

Peri – operative

- Expertise in undertaking surgical procedures; conventional and working towards endoscopic harvesting of saphenous veins and radial artery, ensuring suitability for coronary artery bypass grafting.
- Take part in and assist in developing minimally invasive surgical techniques for heart valve surgery.
- To undertake the following specific duties:
 - Skin preparation and draping including correct patient positioning
 - Skin incision and dissection of tissues using surgical instruments and a high degree of manual dexterity
 - Preparation of grafts for anastomosing to the heart
 - Surgical haemostasis and insertion of wound drains
 - Suturing of all surgical wounds
 - Applying dressings to wounds and compression bandages
- To act as first or second assistant under the direction of the senior surgeon for adult cardiac procedures, including tissue retraction, applying suction, diathermy, maintaining clear field of surgical vision and assisting surgeons in preparing patients for cardiopulmonary bypass and monitoring patient's vital signs.
- To assist with the closure of soft tissue sternal and chest wounds with emphasis on elimination of risks of infection.

Post – operative

- To participate in the postoperative assessments of the patients with particular attention to wound care, wound healing and the prevention of infection in surgical wounds
- To assist in the postoperative education of patients undergoing adult cardiac surgery where appropriate
- To acquire new skills and technologies as adult cardiac surgery evolves
- To ensure all staff identify and act upon psychosocial, psychological and physiological problems of patients, utilising specialist services as appropriate and according to agreed guidelines.
- To work closely with all multidisciplinary teams to maintain an efficient and safe service that meets all patients individual needs.

6. Professional Development

- To provide clinical leadership within cardiac theatres
- To analyse the existing and future competencies required in order to fulfil the clinical requirements of the ward / theatres and the Trust's Strategy for Nursing
- To assist junior doctors and trainee surgical practitioners to develop their professional knowledge and skills and to transfer these into clinical practice.
- To develop own knowledge and practice in accordance with Knowledge and Skill Framework and Professional Development Plan.

7. Staff Management

- To assess the skills and competencies of junior medical staff and trainee surgical care practitioners.
- To assist in ensuring a positive learning environment is maintained and utilise educational strategies in motivating and retaining staff
- To participate in the Trust and Cardiorespiratory Directorate strategy for recruitment and retention of staff and participate in recruitment processes

- To maintain effective communication systems, including dissemination of information and access to all Trust and local policies and procedures.
- To assist in ensuring all patients and carers have appropriate information and health education for their needs.
- To act as a specialist nurse and assist in the assessment of care needs and the development, implementation and evaluation of standards of care.
- To act as a resource to other members of the multidisciplinary team providing accurate information and advice.
- To initiate, develop and use flexible and innovative approaches where appropriate to meet the needs of the patients, including the review of relevant protocols and guidelines to ensure clinically effective and evidence – based care.

8. Financial & Information Management

- To implement systems to analyse staffing requirements against workload activity.
- To analyse, collect and store information, which is relevant to theatre workload.
- To make use of such information in decision – making, problem solving, and care management.

9. Quality Management

- To implement and maintain systems to monitor standards of nursing and patient services against professional codes, statutory and Trust requirements.
- To utilise results of audit and research to improve the quality of the service.
- To assist in ensuring health and safety procedures relevant to the clinical areas are enforced and ensure that appropriate risk assessments are undertaken.
- To review and maintain standards of record keeping and documentation.
- To contribute to the directorate's decision – making process through directorate meetings, clinical governance meetings and health and safety team.
- To ensure the principles of clinical governance and clinical risk management are integrated into patient care.
- To ensure appropriate incident reporting and investigate incidents and take corrective actions.

- To assist in proactively managing the complaints process and when required investigate complaints and develop action plans.
- To undertake Trust policy investigations e.g. disciplinary, grievance, capability when required.
- To assist in developing a positive working environment to retain staff.
- To assist in ensuring all patient data is accurately recorded.
- To participate in clinical audit and research within the Directorate as required

The following statement forms part of all job descriptions:-

The post holder is required to follow Trust policies and procedures which are regularly updated including:

Confidentiality / Data Protection / Freedom of Information

Post holders must maintain the confidentiality of information about patients, staff and other health service business in accordance with the Data Protection Act of 2018. Post holders must not, without prior permission, disclose any information regarding patients or staff. If any member of staff has communicated any such information to an unauthorised person, those staff will be liable to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. Moreover, the Data Protection Act 2018 also renders an individual liable for prosecution in the event of unauthorised disclosure of information.

Following the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000, post holders must apply the Trust's FOI procedure if they receive a written request for information.

Information Governance

All staff must comply with information governance requirements. These includes statutory responsibilities (such as compliance with the Data Protection Act), following national guidance (such as the NHS Confidentiality Code of Practice) and compliance with local policies and procedures (such as the Trust's Confidentiality policy). Staff are responsible for any personal information (belonging to staff or patients) that they access and must ensure it is stored, processed and forwarded in a secure and appropriate manner.

Equal Opportunities

Post holders must at all times fulfil their responsibilities with regard to the Trust's Equal Opportunities Policy and equality laws.

Health and Safety

All post holders have a responsibility, under the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) and subsequently published regulations, to ensure that the Trust's health and safety policies and procedures are complied with to maintain a safe working environment for patients, visitors and employees.

Infection Control

All post holders have a personal obligation to act to reduce healthcare-associated infections (HCAIs). They must attend mandatory training in Infection Control and be compliant with all measures required by the Trust to reduce HCAIs. **All post holders must comply with Trust infection screening and immunisation policies** as well as be familiar with the Trust's Infection Control Policies, including those that apply to their duties, such as Hand Decontamination Policy, Personal Protective Equipment Policy, safe procedures for using aseptic techniques and safe disposal of sharps.

Risk Management

All post holders have a responsibility to report risks such as clinical and non-clinical accidents or incidents promptly. They are expected to be familiar with the Trust's use of risk assessments to predict and control risk, as well as the incident reporting system for learning from mistakes and near misses in order to improve services. Post holders must also attend training identified by their manager, or stated by the Trust to be mandatory.

Flexible Working

As an organisation we are committed to developing our services in ways that best suit the needs of our patients. This means that some staff groups will increasingly be asked to work a more flexible shift pattern so that we can offer services in the evenings or at weekends.

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

Post holders have a general responsibility for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults in the course of their daily duties and for ensuring that they are aware of the specific duties relating to their role.

Sustainability

It is the responsibility of all staff to minimise the Trust's environmental impact by recycling wherever possible, switching off lights, computers monitors and equipment when not in use, minimising water usage and reporting faults promptly.

Smoking Policy

The Trust is committed to providing a healthy and safe environment for staff, patients and visitors. Staff are therefore not permitted to smoke on Trust property or in Trust vehicles

Review of this Job Description

This job description is intended as an outline of the general areas of activity and will be amended in the light of the changing needs of the organisation. To be reviewed in conjunction with the post holder.

Initials and date of Preparation