



We can provide interpreters for a variety of languages, information in larger print or other formats (e.g. audio) - please call us on 01932 723553.

You can use Text Relay to turn telephone communications into text.
Use the Relay UK app on your phone, tablet or PC.
You can also use Relay UK via Minicom or Uniphone.

اگر نیاز به ترجمہ دارید، لطفاً با شماره 01932 723553 تماس بگیرید.

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਭਾਸ਼ਣਾਂ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ: 01932 723553

اگر آپ اس کا اردو زبان میں ترجمہ چاہتے ہیں، تو براہ کرم اس فون نمبر 01932 723553 پر رابطہ کریں

Se precisa de uma tradução por favor contacte: 01932 723553

আপনার অনুবাদের দরকার হলে এখানে যোগাযোগ করুন : 01932 723553

यदि आपको अनुवाद की ज़रूरत है तो कृपया इस नंबर पर फोन करें: 01932 723553

Jeżeli chcemy, aby te informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić 01932 723553

Ashford Hospital
London Road
Ashford, Middlesex
TW15 3AA
Tel: **01784 884488**

St. Peter's Hospital
Guildford Road
Chertsey, Surrey
KT16 0PZ.
Tel: **01932 872000**

Website: www.ashfordstpeters.nhs.uk

Therapy Assistants



What is a Therapy Assistant?

Therapy Assistants support all disciplines across the whole Trust.

Disciplines include:

- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech & Language Therapy
- Dietetics

A brief overview of what we do to support our team, patients, and families:

- Deliver daily therapy to patients.
- Support patient's wellbeing with social interaction and better conversation strategies.
- Supporting the therapists in making resources available to patients.
- Speaking to patients to help understand them for who they are as an individual and to help build strong relationships to achieve better therapy results.
- Managing own caseload as well as working with other therapists.

All of this is an essential part of what we do!

Further Information

We endeavour to provide an excellent service at all times, but should you have any concerns please, in the first instance, raise these with the Matron, Senior Nurse or Manager on duty.

If they cannot resolve your concern, please contact our Patient Experience Team on 01932 723553 or email asp-tr.patient.advice@nhs.net. If you remain concerned, the team can also advise upon how to make a formal complaint.

Department: Speech & Language Therapy Department

Version: 1

Published: April 2024

Review: April 2025

Universities that are offering the Occupational Therapy Degree:

- University of Roehampton
- Middlesex University
- Oxford Brookes University
- Anglia Ruskin University
- University of Brighton
- Canterbury Christ Church University
- London Metropolitan University
- London Southbank University
- University of Kent
- Queen Mary University of London
- University of Southampton
- University of Essex
- Brunel University London
- Guildhall School of Music and Drama
- Royal Central school of Speech & Drama
- Imperial College London
- University of Hertfordshire
- St George's University, London
- Goldsmiths University, London
- University of Winchester

Therapy Assistant Feedback

“Therapy assistants are an integral part of the team. They have a wealth of skills in order to provide a variety of different treatment sessions to our patients in addition to helping with admin tasks to ensure the smooth running of the team and keeping us organised! They are excellent communicators and build lovely rapport with their patients which is invaluable in someone's rehab. In summary, therapy assistants are amazing, and we couldn't do our job without them!” (*JD Physio*)

“The main thing that I can say about all the TAs not just on stroke, but other teams as well is that you are 'invaluable', and without the support you provide we would not be able to offer the level of care and contact time with patients that we do.” (*CH Physio*)

“Being a TA is extremely valuable especially if you are in training or aspiring to become a qualified therapist. We also believe that being a TA gives you the chance to be part of a team. You are able to build strong working relationships with people who are like minded.”

“As a TA you take personal responsibilities which is great for personal development. You have a lot of opportunities to attend trainings in various areas.” (*AW & JF TAs*)

“As a TA it is rewarding to be involved in a patient's rehabilitation whilst in hospital and knowing that the therapy you are offering them is to support their recovery. Working with such a supportive team makes the job exciting, rewarding and is one of the main reasons I am now doing an apprenticeship to become a fully qualified Speech & Language Therapist.” (*JL SLTA*)

Projects

As a Therapy Assistant, we are able to be involved in creating and carrying out projects to improve and support patient services and experiences.

Some of the projects we have at the moment are:

PET Therapy



We have a therapy dog that visits the stroke ward every Thursday and part of our role is to support the patients being able to spend some time with the dog whilst also having lots of cuddles with the dog as well!

Occupational Therapy Apprenticeship:

- We currently work in partnership with Canterbury Christchurch University.
- 3-year apprenticeship
- Work full time 1 or 2 days released to university - (Full salary and working benefits)
- You will continue to work as a therapy assistant, whilst undertaking your training.
- You will be mentored by an Occupational Therapist within the Trust
- During your apprenticeship you will need to complete a minimum of 1000 hours on placement, which are full time in another department to which you work in. These are often completed in another Trust.

Speech & Language Therapy Apprenticeship:

- Currently offered at University of Essex, University of Sheffield, and University of Birmingham.
- 4 Year degree (course split into 2/2) First two years foundation degree in Health Assistant Practitioner
- Work full time 1 or 2 days released to university - (Full salary and working benefits)
- The job role of a therapy assistant means putting learning into practice and gaining more confidence in the role.
- Gives an insight into what being a Speech & Language Therapist entails.
- Closer options to complete the first two years of the degree (Health assistant Practitioner) University of West London
- Able to experience an MDT approach and working closely as a team.

Universities offering the Speech & Language Therapy degree:

- University of Reading
- University of Essex
- University of Southampton
- City, University of London
- Canterbury Christ Church University
- University College London

This project has become a huge success with boosting moods and better results with patient therapy.

Mouthcare

Mouthcare is extremely important across any trust but sometimes more so on a stroke ward due to more patients being Nil By Mouth (NBM). The effects of poor oral hygiene can be serious so being able to make sure that the patients are receiving regular mouthcare with the correct tools has a huge impact in a patient's length of stay and recovery.



Career Options

- Degree Apprenticeships
- University Degree
- Staying in the TA Role and developing to band 4

Physiotherapy Apprenticeships

- Currently offered at Brighton and East London University
- 4-year degree
- Work full time 1 or 2 days released to uni - (full salary and working benefits)
- Therapy Assistant allows for great hands-on experience into what you can expect to be doing, seeing the work completed everyday as well as having the opportunity to follow up on skills learnt in university to carry over into working days.
- Also allows the opportunity to see if working as a physiotherapist is really for you before starting a degree. May see other areas of MDT which seem more appealing and provides an insight into these as well.
- You will need to complete a minimum of 1000 hours on placement, full time, in another department to which you work, and often in a different Trust.

Universities in the South East offering the Physiotherapy degree:

- Middlesex University
- University of Bedfordshire
- University of Brighton
- Canterbury Christ Church University
- London Metropolitan University
- University of East London
- London Southbank University
- University of Chichester
- University of Hertfordshire
- Oxford Brookes University
- University of Greenwich
- University of Kent
- University of Southampton
- University of Essex
- University of Winchester
- St Mary's University, Twickenham
- Kings College London
- St Georges University of London
- Brunel University, London