

Job Description

Title: Orthoptist

Band: Band 5

Staff Group: Allied Health Professional

Reports to: Head Orthoptist

Job Summary:

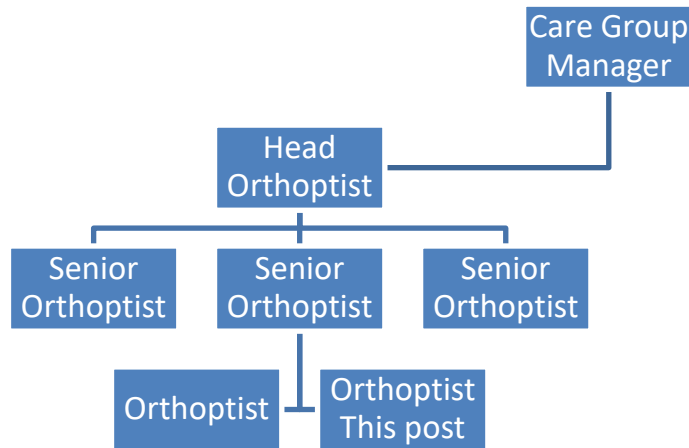
- To diagnose and treat ocular motility and vision function and binocular vision problems in adults and children as an autonomous practitioner. To liaise with Head Orthoptists regarding problems during treatment.
- To be responsible for planning and implementing orthoptic treatment plans/ care pathways for patients of all ages.
- To refer complex ophthalmic problems to an Ophthalmologist as necessary.
- Screening at satellite clinics.
- To work as part of a flexible team.

Key Responsibilities:

- To take clinical responsibility for specialized visual and ocular motility assessment on patients within your own caseload. This group comprises babies, children and adults of all ages referred from a wide range of specialities including referrals from GPs, HVs, paediatrics, neurology, stroke and the emergency eye service.
- Act as an autonomous practitioner adhering to departmental guidelines and policies where appropriate.
- Instruct patients/carers on treatment plans, this can include unwelcome outcomes of poor sight and requires empathy and reassurance. This also includes discussion of all treatment options available and when using medicine exemptions to ensure that all potential drug side effects and adverse reactions are discussed alongside potential benefits to treatment. There may also be language barriers or additional needs to overcome which will need specialized verbal and non-verbal communication skills eg Makaton, sign language.
- The post holder will be expected to communicate effectively and sympathetically with patients of all ages and abilities and their parents/carers. This can involve imparting sensitive and complex information about their eye condition and requires specialist skills where there are barriers to understanding such as deafness, learning difficulties, language or cultural differences.

- The patient group frequently requires significant manual dexterity and speed to ensure accurate results and measurements.
- To guide and discuss timing of surgery and undertake accurate pre and post operative measurements, discussing options with surgeon. If necessary assisting surgeon with post operative adjustments.
- To be responsible for own patient lists – organising own workload and completing reports and letters as required.
- Liaise and communicate effectively with other professionals as necessary including GPs, doctors in other specialities, Health visitors, school nurses and childrens services.
- To undertake vision screening which involves single handed working in the community.
- To issue, supply and instil drops according to relevant PGD or medicine exemption as appropriate and be aware of contradictions of use and what to do in case of adverse events following drop use.
- Maintain patient confidentiality and ensure accurate and complete record keeping of own patient caseload.
- Other duties as required by the Head Orthoptist to ensure the day to day smooth running of the department, highlighting any problems with service delivery to the Head Orthoptist.
- The postholder will practise according to BIOS competency standards and professional practise guidelines, the HCPC code of ethics and Trust and departmental policy and protocols.
- The post holder will contribute to departmental meetings and aid in the formulation of departmental treatment plans and guidelines and take an active role in departmental audit.
- The postholder will assist with teaching of Orthoptics to other health professionals including doctors, medical students, optometrists, nurses and health visitors.
- The post holder will maintain personal CPD in line with HCPC and Trust requirements.

Organisational Chart



Person Specification

Qualifications

- Degree/Diploma in Orthoptics
- Registration with HCPC

Skills and Knowledge

- Effective communication skills written and verbal
- Autonomy of decision making whilst performing patient assessments.
- Good organizational skills
- Good time management
- Ability to work with extreme precision and accuracy
- Willingness to be flexible and be part of a team.
- Ability to recognise own limitations and seek appropriate advice
- Good IT skills

Experience

- Demonstrates sound clinical knowledge in full range of orthoptic clinical practise

Working Together For Patients with Compassion as One Team Always Improving

Strategic approach (clarity on objectives, clear on expectations)

Relationship building (communicate effectively, be open and willing to help, courtesy, nurtures partnerships)

Personal credibility (visibility, approachable, back bone, courage, resilience, confidence, role model, challenge bad behaviour, manage poor performance, act with honesty and integrity)

Passion to succeed (patient centred, positive attitude, take action, take pride, take responsibility, aspire for excellence)

Harness performance through teams (champion positive change, develop staff, create a culture without fear of retribution, actively listen and value contribution, feedback and empower staff , respect diversity)

Job holders are required to act in such a way that at all times the health and well being of children and vulnerable adults is safeguarded. Familiarisation with and adherence to the Safeguarding Policies of the Trust is an essential requirement for all employees. In addition all staff are expected to complete essential/mandatory training in this area.

Print Name:

Date:

Signature: