**Integrated Degree Apprenticeship Standard for Sonographer**

**Occupational Profile:** A career in sonography is challenging, you will be working in a dynamic discipline within medical imaging. (include statement/description from BMUS website). It requires extremely good hand-eye coordination, spatial awareness and excellent interpersonal skills.On qualification the sonographer will be competent to practice autonomously in this discipline. They will undertake, report and take responsibility for the conduct of diagnostic and screening ultrasound scans that will be critical to the patient pathway. Sonographers work in hospitals, clinics, health care facilities undertaking scans which may include but not limited to cancer detection, women's health and pregnancy, abdominal, vascular and musculoskeletal examinations.

**Responsibilities and duties of the role**: Sonographers perform a wide range of clinical ultrasound examinations within a defined area of practice, such as scans in pregnancy, scans for abdominal pain and scans to investigate sports injuries. They will work independently and as part of the clinical team delivering high quality patient care. They effectively communicate with colleagues, service users and carers and will use knowledge and skills to perform, interpret and report a range of ultrasound examinations and have the ability to solve healthcare problems and contribute to patient management. Sonographers use high frequency sound waves to investigate different regions of the human body.

**Qualifications:** Individual employers will set the selection criteria for appointing apprentices but this might include apprentices without level 2 English and Maths will need to achieve this level prior to taking the end point assessment. Apprentice sonographers must achieve a relevant BSc Honours degree.

**Professional Recognition:** On completion of the apprenticeship, the Sonographer will meet the standards of conduct, performance and ethics required by the Health and Care Professions Council and practice in accordance with the [*Guidelines for Professional Ultrasound Practice* (SCoR and BMUS, 2016](https://www.bmus.org/static/uploads/resources/Guidelines_for_Professional_Ultrasound_Practice_Revision_Dec_2016_Vo2IWse.pdf)). They may apply for membership with professional bodies and scientific societies such as the Society of Radiographers, British Medical Ultrasound Society and Society of Vascular Technologists.

**Level:** 6 **Duration:** Typically 36 months **Review date:** after 3 years.

**VALUES:** you will be caring, compassionate, honest, conscientious and committed to providing a high quality, person centred service

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| **BEHAVIOURS.** You will:   1. Treat people with dignity, respecting an individual’s diversity, beliefs, culture, needs, and preferences. 2. Show respect, empathy and the right to privacy for everyone in your work environment and have the courage to challenge areas of concern 3. Be adaptable, reliable, and consistent, show discretion, resilience and self-awareness.   4. Work at a level commensurate with the [HCPC *Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics and Good Scientific Practice*](http://www.hcpc-uk.co.uk/assets/documents/10004EDFStandardsofconduct,performanceandethics.pdf)   1. Act with propriety and in a courteous and professional manner at all times; 2. Communicate sensitively, politely and effectively, in a safe, compassionate and respectful way that can be understood by the service user 3. Comply with local and national schemes of work and protocols including legal and professional framework 4. You will recognise the limitations of your own practice and seek appropriate advice when necessary from senior colleagues |

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|  | **SKILLS.**  You will be able to: | **KNOWLEDGE.** You will have comprehensive knowledge of: |
| Clinical Practice | * Evaluate and undertake the appropriate ultrasound referral * seek appropriate onward referral as required when findings are outside your scope of practice * Assess an individual’s suitability to undergo the imaging procedure to ensure it is the right test, at the right time for that particular patient * Acquire, interpret and report on the range of ultrasound examinations within your scope of practice * Integrate theoretical and practical knowledge in order to solve problems. * Adjust the ultrasound machine and controls to perform a high quality scan . * Critically evaluate the quality of ultrasound images in relation to their diagnostic value. * Work independently, planning organising and prioritising ultrasound patient sessions * Develop creative solutions to ultrasound problems using a comprehensive range of cognitive and practical skills associated with ultrasound . * Critically appraise contemporary evidence that underpins ultrasound practice * asses patients' needs and wellbeing undergoing ultrasound scans and react appropriately | * The structure and function of the human body and how to relate these to normal and abnormal ultrasound appearances and pathophysiology. * Principles of ultrasound imaging and image generation. * Ultrasound equipment and its’ function in order to ensure that it is appropriate for purpose. * How to select, use and apply appropriate scientific and clinical terminology in all aspects of your professional practice. * How to justify the use of ultrasound equipment with regard to quality assurance, health and safety and patient centred care. * How to critically appraise current literature in-order to support evidence based practice * The requirements of the relevant professional bodies and adhere to local and national guidelines with regards to scope of practice, conduct, legal and ethical boundaries. * The impact of culture, equality and diversity on practice in order to practice in a non-discriminatory manner. * The importance of and be able to maintain confidentiality * Patient /service user centred care in the context of your professional practice * How to identify and plan your development needs and opportunities to support and evidence your continued professional development and employability * Appropriate supplementary procedures aligned to mandatory training including manual handling, infection control and disposal of bodily fluids |
| Communication | * Communicate effectively using a wide range of strategies and interventions including provision of information to service users * Use information literacy skills to support clinical and professional requirements. * Obtain consent to perform scans | * Effective communication strategies within everyday practice, applying these appropriately in all interactions * Of medical ethics and mental capacity * Accurate record keeping |
| Service delivery and quality | * Assist in an agreed quality assurance programme including the regular inspection of ultrasound machines and ancillary equipment * Develop procedures and changes to working practices or procedures for own work area * Demonstrate leadership and management skills in accordance with your level of responsibility. | * Local and national guidelines to be able to operate safely and skilfully as a Sonographer both independently and in a multi-professional team * Recognise ergonomically sound practice to ensure wellbeing |
| Problem solving and Decision Making | * Apply reasoned decisions when performing a broad range of clinical, technical, managerial or scientific procedures and record appropriately * Reflect critically on practice, and apply critical thinking and problem solving to professional decision making. * Make judgements requiring analysis interpretation and comparison of options | * The differentials between normal variations and abnormal appearances on ultrasound images * Recognise the importance of life long learning and continuing professional development within your own ultrasound practice and that of others, and plan and seek relevant learning opportunities to maintain fitness to practice |