The following books and journals can be obtained from the Library, Musgrove Park Academy

**Books**


**Journals**

British Journal of Healthcare Assistants :for HCAs and Assistant Practitioners
British Journal of Nursing
Nursing Standard
Nursing Times
**Current articles.**

The journals are all in the library and the articles may be photocopied or accessed online.

*Library staff have evaluated these resources as useful but are not necessarily endorsing the information. Staff should always use their own critical appraisal skills.*

| Title: The status of assistant practitioners in the NHS.  
Citation: British Journal of Healthcare Management, 01 April 2015, vol./is. 21/4(182-188), 13580574  
Author(s): Jackson, Joanna, Bungay, Hilary, Smyth, Terry, Lord, Sue |
|---|
| **Full text:** Available EBSCOhost at [British Journal of Healthcare Management](https://www.ebscohost.com)  
**Full text:** Available EBSCOhost at [British Journal of Healthcare Management](https://www.ebscohost.com) |

| Title: Assistant practitioners: essential support in a climate of austerity.  
Citation: British Journal of Nursing, 26 February 2015, vol./is. 24/4(214-217), 09660461  
Author(s): Matthews, David |
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<td><strong>Abstract:</strong> In Britain the last decade has witnessed the growth of the assistant practitioner (AP), a higher-level support worker role situated at band 4 of the NHS career framework, just below registered nurse. Various factors are given for the role’s development but little analysis is provided as to the economic reasons for its implementation. With reference to the period since the economic crisis of 2007-08, this article proposes that the AP’s implementation and function is influenced by the needs of the economy. With the UK Coalition Government refusing to increase public expenditure as it is thought detrimental to economic growth, emphasising instead the need to reduce public debt, an expansion of registered nurses is unlikely despite growing service user demand. As a result, the AP has become an important economic development in an attempt to maintain standards of nursing care in the present economic climate.</td>
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| **Full text:** Available EBSCOhost at [British Journal of Nursing](https://www.ebscohost.com)  
**Full text:** Available EBSCOhost at [British Journal of Nursing](https://www.ebscohost.com) |

| Title: Help for assistant practitioner students.  
Citation: Nursing Standard, 28 May 2014, vol./is. 28/39(72-73), 00296570  
Author(s): Webb, Susan |
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<td><strong>Abstract:</strong> The role of the band 4 assistant practitioner lies between the role of senior healthcare assistant and newly qualified staff nurse.</td>
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| **Full text:** Available EBSCOhost at [Library MPH](https://www.ebscohost.com)  
**Full text:** Available EBSCOhost at [Nursing Standard](https://www.ebscohost.com) |
Title: ‘AP degree gave me a confidence boost’
Citation: Nursing Standard, May 2014, vol. 28, no. 39, p. 73., 0029-6570 (May 28, 2014)
Author(s): Lloyd, Tracey

Abstract: Support in Practice supplement: I am an assistant practitioner and I work in a 20-bed inpatient unit at St John’s Hospice in Lancaster.

Title: Help for assistant practitioner students
Citation: Nursing Standard, May 2014, vol. 28, no. 39, p. 72-73, 0029-6570 (May 28, 2014)
Author(s): Webb, Susan

Abstract: Support in Practice supplement: Taking a two-year degree while working full-time can be daunting.

Title: Sophie’s story - my journey to become an AP
Citation: British Journal of Healthcare Assistants, Mar 2014, vol. 8, no. 3, p. 136., 1753-1586 (March 2014)
Author(s): Banks, Sophie

Abstract: I am extremely proud to be an assistant practitioner (AP), currently working in a community falls prevention service. The experience has been one of the most challenging, but satisfying, things I have ever done.

Title: A step up for us all in 2014: be the change you wish to see
Citation: British Journal of Healthcare Assistants, Jan 2014, vol. 8, no. 1, p. 46-47, 1753-1586 (January 2014)
Author(s): Hughes, Rhidian

Abstract: Last year was, arguably, the year that put healthcare assistants (HCAs) and assistant practitioners (APs) finally on the map. This time last year we knew that health services would come under close scrutiny in the lead-up to the report of the Public Inquiry at Mid Staffordshire NHS Trust (Francis, 2013). Analysis of the Francis report rightly took up a significant coverage throughout 2013 in the BJHCA.

Title: Septic shock - and the role the HCA and AP can play
Citation: British Journal of Healthcare Assistants, Jan 2014, vol. 8, no. 1, p. 13-17, 1753-1586 (January 2014)
Author(s): Peate, Ian, Holmes, Edward

Abstract: This article provides information concerning septic shock. This condition is also known as septicaemia and bacteraemia and is potentially fatal. Key terms such as sepsis, bacteraemia and septicaemia are defined. A discussion concerning the pathophysiological changes occurring with septic shock is provided. The signs and symptoms are described and the management of the condition is highlighted. The role of the healthcare assistant and assistant practitioner (HCA and AP) is addressed. The article emphasises the need for all staff to act quickly if sepsis has been suspected. A glossary of terms is provided.

Title: Staff views of the introduction of APs into N Bristol NHS Trust
Citation: British Journal of Healthcare Assistants, Nov 2013, vol. 7, no. 11, p. 562-565, 1753-1586 (November 2013)
Author(s): Crew, Sue

Abstract: The article looks at the introduction of the assistant practitioner (AP) role into the established nursing teams within North Bristol NHS Trust (NBT) by means of an
evaluation of staff perceptions through their stories. This research was completed during 2011 and was submitted as a dissertation in partial fulfilment for the degree of MSc Leadership and Management in 2012. The full dissertation is freely available in the Trust library.

Title: Health Education England's plans for HCAs
Citation: British Journal of Healthcare Assistants, Oct 2013, vol. 7, no. 10, p. 493., 1753-1586 (October 2013)
Author(s): Bradley, Peter

Abstract: Health Education England has set out its business plan for work that it plans to do over the next 18 months for the healthcare support worker (HCSW) and assistant practitioner (AP) workforce. It will be interesting to revisit this list in Spring 2015.

Title: Wellbeing, compassion fatigue and burnout in APs
Citation: British Journal of Healthcare Assistants, Sep 2013, vol. 7, no. 9, p. 456-459, 1753-1586 (September 2013)
Author(s): Durkin, Mark, Smith, Joanne, Powell, Michelle, Howarth, Jane, Carson, Jerome

Abstract: It is important that the mental wellbeing of the healthcare workforce is attended to by managers. While many research workers have looked at issues of occupational stress and burnout, fewer have considered the mental wellbeing of staff. In this paper, we report on the findings from a larger survey of mental wellbeing, compassion fatigue and burnout in health and social care professionals. Here we focus on the findings for assistant practitioners (APs). Some 45 APs took part in our questionnaire survey. They were all completing their foundation degree at the University of Bolton. The group were all quite experienced and most worked full-time. The average score on the Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale for our group was 22.96, which is significantly below the average for the general population in the North West of England of 27.70. Only 3 out of 45 APs had 'high wellbeing', while 7 out of 45 had 'low wellbeing'. Scores for trust were also quite low. Burnout was more of a problem than compassion fatigue for this group of practitioners, with the highest score on the item: 'I have frequently felt weak, tired or rundown as a result of my work.' While this was only a small study, and as such needs to be treated with some caution, it does reinforce the need to think about the wellbeing of the workforce and the necessity for managers to provide support for APs in their roles.

Title: AP: a journey from Absolutely Petrified to Awfully Proud
Citation: British Journal of Healthcare Assistants, Aug 2013, vol. 7, no. 8, p. 398-401, 1753-1586 (August 2013)
Author(s): Martin, Judy, Griggs, Chloe

Abstract: The assistant practitioner (AP) role was introduced more than a decade ago to address a skills shortage within the health and social care workforce (Royal College of Nursing (RCN), 2010). Mullen (2010; 2013) has written well on the history of the role. The AP is a higher level support worker who complements the registered staff and transcends traditional boundaries of care (Skills for Health, 2009). According to the Royal College of Nursing (RCN, 2010), the AP role is growing and I would like to share my experiences, as I moved from healthcare assistant (HCA) to AP, while undertaking a foundation degree.

Title: APs in the nursing home: caring for those at the end of life
Citation: British Journal of Healthcare Assistants, Feb 2013, vol. 7, no. 2, p. 82-87, 1753-1586 (February 2013)
Author(s): Smith, Joanne, Brown, Trish, Powell, Michelle

Abstract: Palliative and end-of-life care must be a multidisciplinary approach and can be delivered in a range of settings. As the population ages, many older people who need
Palliative and end-of-life care may receive this care in a nursing home. The place a person spends their last few days varies, with most people wishing to die at home, whether that be living and dying in their own home or in a nursing or residential home (Age UK, 2010; Munday et al, 2007). The final article in this series of 4, with the 3 former looking at hospice care, hospice at home and day care (Brown and Smith, 2012a, b, c), will explore the role of the assistant practitioner (AP) in this environment. It will look at the way in which services are responsive to an ageing population and the issues of ageing, also the importance of creating a workforce that can meet this need. Furthermore, consideration will be given to the importance of good-quality care at the end of a person’s life within a nursing home setting. Legal and ethical issues will also be examined. There will also be examination of the course that has been developed around end-of-life Care, and comments from a student about her experience.

**Title:** Back the RCN’s stance on regulation of HCAs and APs  
**Citation:** British Journal of Healthcare Assistants, Jan 2013, vol. 7, no. 1, p. 7., 1753-1586 (January 2013)  
**Author(s):** Peate, Ian

**Abstract:** The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has issued a statement concerning the regulation of healthcare support workers (RCN, 2012a). In this, the college makes it clear it is opposed to any form of regulation that falls short of mandatory regulation of healthcare assistants and assistant practitioners (HCAs and APs) and other healthcare support workers. The statement discusses the weaknesses associated with voluntary regulation.

**Title:** An evaluation of the role of the Assistant Practitioner in critical care.  
**Citation:** Nursing in Critical Care, Jan 2013, vol. 18, no. 1, p. 14-22, 1362-1017 (January 2013)  
**Author(s):** Allen, Kirsty, McAleavy, Janet M., Wright, Shirley

**Abstract:** Aims: To determine whether the Assistant Practitioner role has fulfilled the expectations of the original implementation plan which was to introduce this new role into the Critical Care Department of a large NHS Trust. This service evaluation will examine the introduction of Assistant Practitioners by establishing the perceptions of this new role and the impact of this change from key groups of staff, within the Critical Care Department. Background: The Department of Health (DoH) recognized the potential of assistant practitioners in a range of care settings. As a participant in this DoH initiative the Trust introduced the role into a number of areas. This service evaluation was undertaken following the training of small cohorts of Assistant Practitioners within the Critical Care Department. Methods: A literature review was conducted initially searching the key words assistant practitioner, role development and critical care. A service evaluation was undertaken using questionnaires and semi-structured interviews for data collection. The data was analysed using a thematic approach. Results: The responses from the various staff groups revealed a number of key themes including patient care skills, role, preparation and training, drug administration and patient allocation. Conclusions: Overall, the data suggests that the Assistant Practitioner role has fulfilled the expectations of the original implementation plan as they deliver care to patients in the clinical environment as required. However, the data also reveals that there are still issues to be resolved. Relevance to clinical practice: The study has shown the Assistant Practitioners to be excellent in delivering patient care; however, there are limitations due to the complexity of the patient group in critical care areas.

**Title:** HCAs: developing skills in reflective writing.  
**Citation:** British Journal of Healthcare Assistants, 2012, vol. 6, no. 3, p. 140-142  
**Author(s):** Pearson, Janice

**Abstract:** Advice for health care assistants (HCAs) on producing reflective writing as part of academic courses aimed at developing their role as assistant practitioners (AP). The concept of reflection and the differences between traditional academic writing and reflective writing are described. Tools and frameworks which might be of assistance are
described, including the Gibbs reflective cycle. The experience of HCAs as adult learners is considered.

**Title:** Past, present and future: from auxiliary to assistant practitioner.
**Citation:** British Journal of Healthcare Assistants, 2011, vol. 5, no. 12, p. 615-617
**Author(s):** Parker, Jean, Dowding, Lesley

**Abstract:** History of the development of the role of health care assistants and associated training. The increasing importance of the role of the assistant practitioner as a consequence of a predicted fall in RN numbers is discussed. The potential for health care assistants to expand their role through training to become assistant practitioners is considered.

**Title:** Gaining consent and protecting the rights of patients.
**Citation:** British Journal of Healthcare Assistants, 2011, vol. 5, no. 9, p. 457-458
**Author(s):** Stonehouse, D

**Abstract:** Concept of patient consent and its role in the delivery of daily care by health care assistants and assistant practitioners. Written, verbal and implied consent are described, and support for the patient during the consent process is discussed. The importance of respecting the patient's wishes and the differences when obtaining consent for children are discussed.

**Title:** Navigating contested terrain: AP stories from the frontline.
**Citation:** British Journal of Healthcare Assistants, 2011, vol. 5, no. 7, p. 346-349
**Author(s):** Jackson, C, Thurgate, C

**Abstract:** Challenges and experiences of assistant practitioners (APs) working after completing a foundation degree. The contributions made by APs including improving patient outcomes, health promotion and working in multidisciplinary teams are described and their views on undertaking a foundation degree are reported.

**Title:** Bridging the skills gap.
**Citation:** Nursing Standard, 2011, vol. 25, no. 31, p. 18-19
**Author(s):** Waters, A

**Abstract:** The role of assistant practitioners (APs) and questions about whether they are being deployed as a substitute for registered nurses. The numbers of assistant or associate practitioners is highlighted and concerns from nurses about their need for supervision are explored.

**Title:** Regulating the workforce.
**Citation:** British Journal of Healthcare Assistants, 2011, vol. 5, no. 4, p. 198-199
**Author(s):** Hughes, R

**Abstract:** Principles of the government's command paper, 'Enabling excellence' (2011) concerning the reformation of workforce regulation. Cost factors and the proposal of voluntary regulation for unregulated staff including healthcare assistants and assistant practitioners are described.

**Title:** Extra support makes new role a success.
**Citation:** Nursing Standard, 2011, vol. 25, no. 29, p. 70-71
**Author(s):** Dutton, K

**Abstract:** Career Development supplement. The role of Assistant Practitioners (APs) in NHS Cumbria. The pros and cons of the role are listed.

**Full Text:**
**Assistant practitioners: identity, responsibilities and development.**

*Abstract:* Research into the role of assistant practitioners (APs) in supporting registered professionals in acute hospitals in England. Findings from the 1st national study of APs are described, including their demographic characteristics and perceptions of their role, job satisfaction, responsibilities and development opportunities.

**Facing the challenge: the development of APs.**

*Abstract:* 2nd in a 4-part series on the development of the role and education of the assistant practitioner workforce. The opportunities offered by foundation degrees and the need for a review of professional regulation and competencies are discussed. [BNI unique abstract] 6 references

**Core characteristics of the AP's role: six years on.**

*Abstract:* The experience of the role of the assistant practitioner (AP) in north west England from 2002 to 2010. Evaluations examining the role are outlined and service users' perceptions and core characteristics are listed. Case studies are described concerning the role of AP post holders in stroke rehabilitation and occupational therapy.

**What work do assistant practitioners do and where do they fit in the nursing workforce?**

*Abstract:* Research analysing the job descriptions of assistant practitioners to identify their scope of practice and where they fit within the nursing workforce. Job descriptions in 3 acute trusts were examined, highlighting the supportive/assistive role and inconsistencies in role expectations. Role boundaries and overlapping were explored and the need for more clarity is recommended.

**Enhancing care: developing the assistant practitioner role.**

*Abstract:* Introduction of assistant practitioners at a chemotherapy day unit in Edinburgh where their role is to assist qualified chemotherapy nurses with workload. The role of the assistant practitioner is described and a case study explores an assistant practitioner's experience.