

SONOGRAPHER

Candidate Pack



Job Summary

This summary has been generated using AI to provide a clear and accessible overview of the role. It is intended to support candidates who may find the full job description harder to read, such as those who are neurodiverse, have learning disabilities or lower literacy levels. Our goal is to make the application process more accessible and inclusive for everyone

- You will carry out ultrasound scans on different parts of the body, including abdomen, gynaecology, children, and muscles
- You will write clear reports on your findings and share them with doctors and other staff
- You will make sure patients are comfortable and understand what is happening during their scan
- You will work closely with other healthcare staff to provide a high-quality service
- You will help train students and take part in learning and research to keep your skills up to date
- You may take on extra responsibilities when the lead sonographer is away

Job Description

Job title:	Sonographer
Grade:	7
Site:	The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital with cross site working at The Princess Royal Hospital, Telford
Accountable to:	Radiology Services
DBS required:	Yes

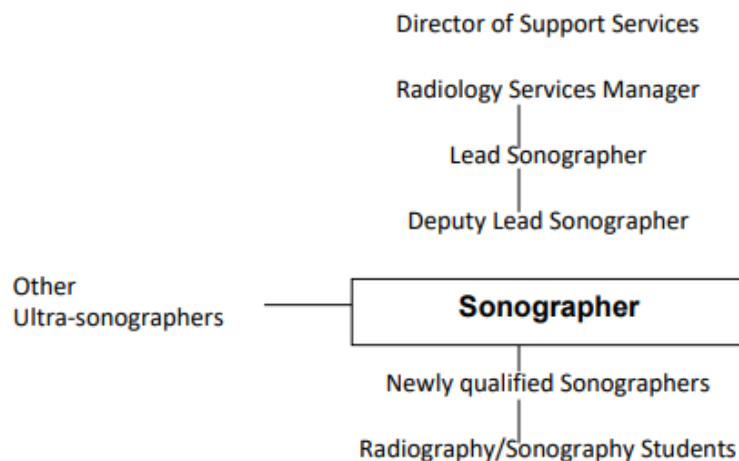
Job summary

To independently assess and interpret ultrasound scans in the following range of examinations.

- General Abdominal
- Gynaecological – including transvaginal
- Small parts
- Neonatal heads
- General Paediatrics
- Paediatric hips
- Musculoskeletal
- Doppler techniques
- New techniques, which may be developed
- To autonomously produce written report of the above examinations.
- To liaise with referring clinicians, nursing and all other staff to ensure the provision of a high quality efficient service.

- To ensure patient care and comfort at all times.
- To supervise student radiographers, sonographers and trainees from other disciplines.
- To participate in CPD.
- To participate in ongoing research, trials and equipment testing.
- To deputise in the absence of the departmental head.

Organisational position



Specific duties and Responsibilities

Clinical

- To be professionally and legally accountable for all aspects of your own work, including the management of patients in your care.
- To develop and maintain skills required to perform at an advanced level, a varied range of unsupervised scans as detailed in the job summary, resulting in a high quality of patient care.
- To issue an independent report and instigate certain follow up procedures i.e. Abdominal X-rays, follow up scans etc.
- To suggest specialist referral or other investigations.
- To communicate effectively with patients and carers to ensure understanding of procedures. Skills of persuasion, motivation, explanation and gaining informed consent will be used with a wide variety of patients. Barriers to effective communication will be evident e.g. Infants, patients with learning difficulties, dementia, pain and fear.

- To occasionally prepare sterile trolleys for biopsies, aspirations and drainages and to assist during these procedures. Attention is paid to the safe disposal of used instruments including needles.

Professional

- To communicate complex patient-related information to colleagues i.e. other sonographers, radiologists, referring clinicians, etc.
 - To undertake the measurement and evaluation of own work and current practices through the use of evidence based projects, audit, research and outcome measures. To convey this information to others.
 - To make recommendations to changes in clinical practice and help implement new working practices.
 - To participate in the training, both theoretical and practical, of student radiographers, sonographers and trainees from other disciplines.
 - To adhere to statutory regulations in respect of health and safety, COSHH, fire and infection control.
 - To participate in appropriate personal developments programmes and maintain a CPD portfolio.
 - To attend relevant meetings and courses. To maintain a knowledge of advances in techniques and equipment.
 - To participate in departmental audit and research as appropriate.
- Sonographer
- To complete appropriate documentation – computerised and paper patient records including writing scan results in the case notes

Organisational

- Organise and prioritise own work area, balancing other patient- related and professional demands

Systems and Equipment

- Have independent use of expensive equipment i.e. Ultrasound machines and IT equipment.
- Take part in the day-to-day maintenance and QA.

Decisions, judgements and freedom to act

- Work unsupervised but responsible to the Lead Sonographer and Directorate manager.
- Issue independent reports and advise on certain follow up procedures.
- Work to ultrasound protocols with the freedom to adjust the procedure to individual cases i.e. Type and extent of scan.

Communication and Relationships

- Will communicate with the ultrasound manager, other disciplines, referring clinicians, patients and relatives. Communication will be verbal and written.
- Highly sensitive information requiring empathy and reassurance, e.g. Results of scans where appropriate.
- Results given to referring clinicians.
- Judgement used as to the emotional effects of giving the scan results to the patient and any other questions that may arise such as any necessary treatment.
- Next stage in procedure, e.g. Follow up appointment.
- Time and preparation of patients.
- Explanation of the procedure and any aftercare. • Principles of scanning to students

Physical, mental and emotional demands of the post

Physical

- Highly developed physical skills with good hand eye coordination are necessary.
- Frequent, repetitive physical effort to obtain optimal images. Ideally periods of work should be broken up into sessions and micro breaks, where time allows, reducing the strain of repetitive movements of the upper limb and trunk that are necessary for each scan.
- Ability to measure accurately.
- Appropriate knowledge of manual handling patients with varying disabilities and moving heavy equipment.

Mental

- Issuing a concise, unambiguous report.
- Frequent extended times of intense concentration during each scan.
- Frequent interruptions to work and concentration whilst scanning and reporting e.g. doctors with urgent requests, phone calls etc.

Emotional

- Coping with pressure from patients to reveal the results of the scan when this is not appropriate.
- Discussing terminal illness with those aware of their condition.
- Giving emotional support for those undergoing interventional procedures.
- Handling difficult children, seriously ill patients and patients with challenging behaviour.

Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	• Diploma/BSc in Radiography • Diploma/PgDip/ in Medical Ultrasound (Case accredited) • Registration with the HCPC	• Teaching qualification
Experience	• Previous experience of working within the NHS • Experience as a general sonographer	• Qualification and experience in vascular ultrasound, particularly DVT scanning and carotid duplex. In house training may be given if required. • Qualification and experience in scanning necks/ testes/groins/MSK. In house training may be given if required
Knowledge and skills	• Independently perform interpret and report ultrasound examinations • Ability to manage own workload. • Ability to teach clinical skills to other staff and students • Ability to assess and refer patients if further examinations /interventions are required	

	• Able to communicate with a multidisciplinary team both in and outside the Department • Ability to participate in MDT meetings • In depth knowledge of general/vascular anatomy and ultrasound techniques • In depth knowledge of disease processes and treatments • A broad knowledge of anatomy and physiology, implications and treatment of a wide range of pathologies	
Other	• Innovative • Enthusiastic • Organised • Good communication	

General conditions

As they undertake their duties, all our people are required to uphold and demonstrate the Trust's core values of: Partnering, Ambitious, Caring and Trusted. Collaboration and partnership are also central to our approach in delivering our fundamental activities of patient care, teaching, and research.

Health and safety

As an employee of the Trust, you have a responsibility to:

- take reasonable care of your own Health and Safety and that of any other person who may be affected by your acts or omissions at work; and
- co-operate with the Trust in ensuring that statutory regulations, codes of practice, local policies and departmental health and safety rules are adhered to; and
- not intentionally or recklessly interfere with or misuse anything provided in the interests of health and safety

Infection prevention and control (IPC)

The prevention and management of acquired infection is a key priority for the Trust. As an employee of the Trust, you have a responsibility to:

- ensure that your work methods are compliant with the Trust's agreed policies and procedures and do not endanger other people or yourself; and
- be aware of infection prevention and control policies, practices, and guidelines appropriate for your duties and you must follow these at all times to maintain a safe environment for patients, visitors and colleagues; and
- maintain an up-to-date knowledge of infection prevention and control, policies, practices, and procedures through attendance at annual mandatory updates and ongoing continuing professional development; and
- challenge poor infection prevention and control practices of others and to report any breaches, using appropriate Trust mechanisms (e.g. incident reporting policy)

Information governance

The Trust is committed to compliance with Information Governance standards to ensure that all information is handled legally, securely, efficiently, and effectively. You are required to comply with the Trust's Information Governance policies and standards.

Confidentiality and Security - Your attention is drawn to the confidential nature of information collected within the NHS. Whilst you are employed by the Trust you will come into contact with confidential information and data relating to the work of the

Trust, its patients or employees. You are bound by your conditions of service to respect the confidentiality of any information you may come into contact with which identifies patients, employees or other Trust personnel, or business information of the Trust. You also have a duty to ensure that all confidential information is held securely at all times, both on and off site.

Disclosure of Information - To ensure that information is only shared with the appropriate people in appropriate circumstances, care must be taken to check the recipient has a legal basis for access to the information before releasing it. Upon leaving the Trust's employment and at any time thereafter you must not take advantage of or disclose confidential information that you learnt in the course of your employment, to protect yourself and the Trust from any possible legal action.

Information Quality and Records Management - You must ensure that all information handled by you is accurate and kept up-to-date and you must comply with the Trust's recording, monitoring, validation and improvement schemes and processes.

Professional standards and performance review

As an employee of the Trust, you have a responsibility to:

- participate in continuous personal development including, statutory and mandatory training as appropriate for the post; and
- maintain consistently high personal and professional standards and act in accordance with the relevant professional code of conduct; and
- take responsibility for the maintenance and improvement of personal and professional competence and to encourage that of colleagues and subordinates

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

We all have a personal and a professional responsibility within the Trust to identify and report abuse. This may be known, suspected, witnessed or have raised concerns. Early recognition is vital to ensuring the patient is safeguarded; other people (children and vulnerable adults) may be at risk. The Trust's procedures must be implemented, working in partnership with the relevant authorities. The Sharing of Information no matter how small is of prime importance in safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults.

- As an employee of the Trust you have a responsibility to ensure that:
 - you are familiar with and adhere to the Trust's Safeguarding Children procedures and guidelines.
 - you attend safeguarding awareness training and undertake any additional training in relation to safeguarding relevant to your role.

NHS Sexual Safety Charter

The Trust is committed to ensuring that all employees work in an environment that is safe, inclusive, and free from sexual misconduct, harassment, and discrimination. As a signatory to the NHS Sexual Safety Charter, the Trust upholds a zero-tolerance approach to sexual harassment and supports anyone affected by inappropriate behaviour. In accordance with the Workers Protection (Amendment of Equality Act 2010) Act 2023, the Trust has a statutory duty to take reasonable steps to prevent sexual harassment of its employees. All staff, are required to treat others with dignity and respect at all times and to cooperate with Trust policies, procedures and training designed to maintain a culture of safety, professionalism, and mutual respect.

Social responsibility

The Trust is committed to behaving responsibly in the way we manage transport, procurement, our facilities, employment, skills, and our engagement with the local community so that we can make a positive contribution to society. As an employee of the Trust, you have a responsibility to take measures to support our contribution and to reduce the environmental impact of our activities relating to energy and water usage, transport and waste.

Continuous improvement

The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust is committed to creating a culture that puts Continuous Improvement at the forefront of our transformational journey and our aim is to empower colleagues at all levels have the confidence, capability, passion, and knowledge, to test changes and make improvements at SaTH and in the communities we serve.

Following a successful five-year partnership with the Virginia Mason Institute in the USA, SaTH

continues to further develop and embed the Trust's approach to Continuous Improvement at all levels of the organisation. You will be supported by an Improvement Hub, which will provide the necessary expertise to support you make improvements, while also providing training at various stages of your time at SaTH, as part of your continuing professional development.

Equal opportunities and diversity

The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust is striving towards being an equal opportunities employer. No job applicant or colleague will be discriminated against on the grounds of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, age, sex, marital status or on the grounds of disability or sexual preference.

Selection for training and development and promotion will be on the basis of an individual's ability to meet the requirements of the job.

The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust the post-holder will have personal responsibility to ensure they do not discriminate, harass, bully, or contribute to the discrimination, harassment or bullying of a colleague or colleagues, or condone discrimination, harassment or bullying by others.

The post-holder is also required to co-operate with measures introduced to ensure equality of opportunity.

