

Higher Level Medical Secretary- Oncology

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. Our goal is to make the application process more accessible and inclusive for everyone. ***

- This role supports doctors and hospital staff by helping to organise their work and manage important information.
- You will help run the office smoothly, making sure patient records and test results are handled properly.
- You will answer phone calls and messages, and help with meetings and paperwork.
- You will also help plan staff rotas and keep track of holidays and absences.
- Sometimes you will support new team members and help train them.
- You will need to work carefully, stay calm under pressure, and keep private information safe.

Job Description

Job title:	Higher Level Medical Secretary
Grade:	4
Site:	The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital
Accountable to:	Operational Manager for Oncology & Haematology
DBS required:	No

Job purpose

The post holder is a pivotal person in the patient's relationship with the hospital, the clinical team and the Consultant. The post holder provides a complete medical secretarial and administrative service to the Consultant and their team across a wide range of activities the majority of which are non routine. The post holder will assist in the organisation of the Consultant's workload and will effectively support activities with other hospital staff to ensure that an efficient service is provided. It is essential that the post holder exercises initiative and independent judgement whilst maintaining a high level of confidentiality and diplomacy at all times without immediate access to line supervision. In addition, the post holder is co-responsible for managing, maintaining and administering various data sources which may include waiting lists, clinic lists and/or theatre lists.

Main duties and responsibilities

Organisation

- Organise the office efficiently in a complex, changing environment.

- Manage multiple tasks, a significant and substantial number of which are non routine ensuring that deadlines are met.
- Prioritise and organise own workload; making decisions and initiating action where necessary, ensuring the smooth running of the office/team through shared knowledge and cover.
- Ensure that the results of tests and investigation reports for patients are received; shown to medical staff and all relevant ongoing arrangements are carried out.
- Using own initiative ensure that any results/investigation reports which require immediate action are presented to the Consultants or other senior members of the team in a timely manner and clinical responses are completed.
- Arrange and service meetings including appraisals for medical staff as requested; taking and transcribing minutes and any follow-up actions as requested. Using the in-house patient data tracking system ensure that all patient case notes passing through the office are booked in and out appropriately. Operations Manager Assistant Operations Manager PA/ Higher Level Medical Secretary Deal with requests from the Coroner, Mortuary and liaise with the Bereavement Office in respect of death certificates for deceased patients.
- Keep records of annual leave and study leave requests and sickness absence for medical staff and forward to Clinical Lead / Operations Manager / Centre Manager for processing.
- In the absence of the Rota Co-ordinator / Rota Planner, monitor, as appropriate, medical staff rotas within Acute Medicine to ensure they are up-to-date, available on electronic systems i.e. Rotawatch and adjusted as required to maintain the correct cover. This may also require regular contact with internal locums to cover any locum shifts.
- In the absence of the Rota Co-ordinator / Rota Planner provide information as required in respect of rota cover and prepare the weekend plan from the rotas as required.

Provision of Personal Assistant (PA) Role

- Provide a PA role for the Clinical Lead and a co-ordinating role for the Acute Physicians, dealing with internal and external queries effectively, drafting replies, taking and acting upon messages. Providing and receiving information which may require tact or persuasive skills as there may be barriers to understanding.
- Provision of a full and comprehensive support to all Acute Medicine meetings, distribution of papers, taking of minutes and updating action plans as required.
- Ensure and relevant papers from meetings are presented to the Senior Management team within the Emergency Centre, within the required timescales.
- Receive and open incoming correspondence, taking action as appropriate.
- Manage electronic and/or manual diaries for the Acute Medicine Clinical Lead and Acute Physicians.

- Respond appropriately to contentious, sensitive and difficult enquiries to ensure a satisfactory conclusion.
- Assist with the investigation and compilation of responses to complaints within optimum deadlines and maintain legal\complaint files.

Supervision

- Supervise and mentor trainee medical secretaries\agency\support and\or new staff within the department. Provide guidance on allocation and prioritising of workload to support\relief staff.
- Implement existing policies and procedures to provide cover for colleagues during periods of absence to maintain adequate levels of service delivery.
- Cascade knowledge, information and training to other members of the team.

Communication

- Using MS Office applications produce accurate, high quality typewritten material such as communication to General Practitioners and other health professionals clinic letters, discharge summaries, complaints correspondence, medical reports, rotas, references, minutes of meetings, clinical and general correspondence. Regularly using complex and sensitive medical terminology from audio transcription, shorthand, handwritten correspondence, self generated correspondence or from an outline of what is required, some of which may be dictated but not signed.
- Respond to telephone calls and requests for information from anxious and distressed patients and carers, analysing information and offering non-clinical guidance by using own judgment in a professional and competent manner. Respond appropriately to contentious, sensitive and difficult enquiries to ensure a satisfactory conclusion.
- Communicate appropriately with a range of people at different levels of the organisation.
- Communicate with a wide range of external organisations including legal and government agencies.

Information

- Keep up to date with technological developments with regard to developing appropriate skills in the use of current office technology following appropriate consultation and training eg word processing, spreadsheets, databases, electronic mail, presentations etc.
- Manage and maintain comprehensive office systems including filing; bring forward systems (e.g. reminders), prompt access to information and preparation of papers for meetings.
- Manage and maintain electronic systems (e.g. database/spreadsheet) containing patient related information, analysing as required.
- Participate in internal and external audit\research and development for professional bodies collating and producing data as required

General

- Implement and adhere to agreed policies, procedure, protocols including national initiatives and propose changes on improvements to departmental working practices.
- View the Service as Trust wide and therefore must be flexible with regard to location
- Participate in reflection, self-evaluation and continuous professional developments including performance review.
- Contribute to ongoing projects as required.
- Maintain and encourage safe working practices and environment in accordance with local Health and Safety policies.
- Assist in the management of resources by monitoring stationery levels, order as appropriate, and reporting faulty office equipment to the correct person.
- Occasionally handle cash and cheques ensuring that donated funds are handled appropriately in accordance with current policies

Environment

- The post holder will be aware of physical effort with regard to sitting for long periods to carry out word processing and the manual handling issues related to transfer of substantial numbers of heavy medical notes.
- Exposure to frequent interruptions to routine, relating to telephone calls and personal requests and demands.
- Be aware of the prolonged exposure to Visual Display Units (VDU) and the associated health and safety risks.
- Frequent exposure to working in a stressful environment which could include coming into contact with ill, abusive and aggressive patients.
- Exposure to medical photographs within clinical notes which could be of a distressing nature.

Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	• Knowledge of Microsoft Office packages eg PowerPoint, Word, Excel and other IT skills acquired through training and practical experience • 4GCSE (C and above) or equivalent	• AMSPAR • ECDL • NVQ 3 Business admin

	• RSA Stage 3 typewriting, word processing (or equivalent)	
Experience and Knowledge	• Experience in audio typing • Customer Care • Secretarial procedures • Knowledge of software programs • Previous secretarial experience • Medical Terminology (with the ability to reach the required standard in medical terminology by the end of a 12 month period) • Knowledge of good practice and system of work within secretarial/PA field. Knowledge of Health and Safety in the Workplace • Understanding of confidentiality/data protection issues.	• Medical Secretarial/PA Experience of compiling rota's • Knowledge of PAS systems • Knowledge of NHS policies
Skills	• Excellent command of English • High standard of grammar and spelling • Minute taking • Able to prioritise • Well organised • Good time management • Team worker	• Touch typing

	• Patient focused • Calm and confident • Able to use own judgment • Able to concentrate for long periods, while transcribing audio tape which may contain distressing information • Able to communicate sensitively and tactfully with patients and carers	
Other	• The post-holder will be required on occasions to perform tasks outside of the designated department, therefore flexibility is key A requirement may be made to operate on another site within the Trust	

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 Trusts Safeguarding Children procedures and guidelines.
 - you attend safeguarding awareness training and undertake any additional training in relation to safeguarding relevant to your role.

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.

