



Job Description

Job Title: Dietetic Assistant Practitioner
Accountable to: Dietitian
Location: Thames Valley Prison Cluster - HMP Bullingdon, HMP Huntercombe, HMP Grendon and HMP Springhill

Practice Plus Group's mission is **Access to Excellence**. Our core values are;

- we treat patients and each other as we would like to be treated
- we act with integrity
- we embrace diversity
- we strive to do things better together

Patients can only access excellence if we commit to living our values in everything we do when we're at work.

We believe in putting the patient first, regardless of the environment or their history. The prison population is one of the most vulnerable and challenged patient groups in society and the delivery of their health care is conducted within often difficult and demanding environments.



The role

The Dietetic Assistant Practitioner is a member of the multidisciplinary team responsible for the management of patients with diverse nutritional needs across Thames Valley Prisons. They will support patients to develop knowledge, confidence and skills to achieve their healthy weight and dietitian goals.

This role will form part of our Planned Care Teams across the Thames Valley region. These are a multidisciplinary team delivering routine planned, follow up and recovery care for patients. The team will be made up of a variety of registered and non-registered professionals who will input into patients co-ordinated care.

The Dietetic Assistant Practitioner will be involved with collaborative research and audit, within Thames Valley Practice Plus Group prison Cluster, and linking with external agencies.

The Dietetic Assistant Practitioner will take responsibility for groups of patients, undertaking detailed assessments and nutritional screening. They will develop, implement and evaluate individual care and treatment plans ensuring appropriate nutritional intake of patients, with due consideration to dietary and cultural needs and referring to the Dietitian as appropriate.

The primary duties of the role will be to support Healthy weight and self-management programmes, you will;

- Screen patients to collect a range of qualitative and quantitative data by a range of methods including face to face and telephone.



- Deliver behaviour change weight management and self-management for long term conditions group and 1:1 sessions to patients across Thames Valley sites under supervision of the dietitian.
- Be responsible for collating Patient Information – including dietary information packs to support the education sessions delivered
- Make changes to information sheets for patients in conjunction with the dietitian.
- Be responsible for teaching patients the skills required to change their diets and physical activity safely. This includes correct food hygiene, weighing, menu planning, recipe adaptation and safe physical activity behaviours.
- Respond to patient needs, for example organising referrals to psychology or GP, and liaise with GPs and the healthcare team. Organise and run weighing drop-in sessions for patients who are established in the programmes.
- Enter and maintain patient information in the department databases and electronic patient records
- Liaise with administrators to order, monitor and maintain stock levels of information materials and supplies, and to book patients into clinics and groups.
- Undertake other duties required and considered appropriate for this level of post

You will also;

Provide outstanding evidence based care to our patients by seeking out, listening to and acting on feedback. Ensuring that care is personalised and informed by what matters to them.

Deliver non-judgemental care that is safe, high quality, patient centred whilst meeting CQC requirements, following our policies and procedures and always considering safeguarding. You will work independently using your own initiative, skills and competencies, supported indirectly by the dietitian.

Inspire excellence in your colleagues by pro-actively leading the service and motivating the team recognising that our workforce is our most valuable asset. You will forge strong links with our partners and stakeholders, providing a service that people can trust, feel safe within and feel proud of.

Promote Healthy Weight and self management programmes to patients, GPs, healthcare and prison staff. Actively participate in the delivery of health promotion for patients whilst embracing a culture of reflection and shared learning.

Share knowledge, skills, expertise and information appropriately to ensure safe care, supporting your colleagues to do a great job.

About you

- Evidence of willingness to learn and self-develop, including continuing professional development
- A non-judgmental and compassionate approach with patient centred values
- Ability to communicate information
- Ability to build and maintain good working relationships with a range of stakeholders
- Good IT skills and IT literacy
- Knowledge of healthcare policies and best practice
- Proactive problem solving skills
- Motivated as an individual and when working in a team
- The post holder will be required to work across various HMP sites in the Thames Valley area



Additional information

Disclosure and Barring Service- a Disclosure and Barring Service disclosure at the enhanced level is required for this role. A risk assessment will be undertaken if necessary.

Prison Vetting- a HMPPS (His Majesties Prison and Probation Service) clearance is required for this role in accordance with Ministry of Justice, plus local prison vetting.

Equality and Diversity

The jobholder is required to abide by PPGs policies and procedures and to actively support PPGs commitment to equality and diversity in both employment and the delivery of services. All patients, staff and visitors must be treated equitably, with dignity and respect taking into account their race, gender, ethnic origin, age, disability, sexuality etc".

Education and Training- continuing professional development is encouraged and an annual appraisal system is in place to discuss ongoing objectives and support career progression

Safeguarding Children and Adults

All employees have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults including but not limited to patients, members of the public and colleagues. The post holder will be responsible for ensuring they undertake the appropriate level of training in accordance with our safeguarding policy training strategy and that they are aware of and work within the PPG safeguarding policies

Infection Prevention and Control

All employees have a personal responsibility to comply with PPG Infection Prevention and Control policies to protect their own health, the health of patients, visitors and other employees and to prevent health care associated infections. This includes a requirement to maintain a safe, clean and tidy work environment and to complete mandatory Infection Prevention and Control Training as provided by PPG.

Respect for Patient Confidentiality

The jobholder should respect patient confidentiality at all times and not divulge patient information unless sanctioned by the requirements of the role.