

Department of Audiology and Audiological Medicine

Specialist Audiologist

Job Title:	Specialist Audiologist
Band:	6
Hours of Work (p/w):	37.5 hours
Service Centre/Directorate:	Department of Audiological Medicine
Base:	St George's Hospital, but the post holder will be required to work at any of the Trust's sites.
Accountable to:	Audiology Head of Service / Audiology Speciality Lead
Reports to:	Audiology Team leaders and Audiology Head of Service
Responsible for:	Band 5 audiologists and students

Key working relationships:

1. The post holder must have good working relationships with all members of the Department of Audiology and Audiological Medicine and also with appropriate medical, nursing, administrative and other scientific/technical staff within the Hospital and the Medical School.
2. The Audiology Head of Service in charge of the department will provide day-to-day management.

Role of the Department:

The Department of Audiology and Audiovestibular Medicine at St. George's Hospital provides a specialist diagnostic audio-vestibular service by a team of audiovestibular physicians, audiologists, clinical scientists, hearing therapists and physiotherapists.

Its specialist service consists of a hearing, balance and tinnitus service including specialist vestibular assessment and rehabilitation and hearing therapy. It is an inplant centre for the provision of bone-anchored hearing aids and cochlear implants. Its hearing rehabilitation program includes a comprehensive hearing aid service and counselling for adults. It also has a large paediatric caseload consisting of extensive diagnostic and (re)habilitation service for children from newborn.

The department serves more than 7,500 children and adults each year, fitting hearing aids for over 1000 people annually and conducting 5,000 audiograms in a variety of locations.

Job Summary:

To work with other members of the Audiology team to provide a high quality service to hearing impaired patients and patients encountering problems with balance and/or tinnitus.

1. Performs clinical work for a paediatric and adult population, involving responsibility and autonomy, including activities that are complex and non-routine.
2. Working with the Head of Service to ensure that clinical and professional standards are maintained at all times.
3. Working with the Head of Service to continuously develop the expanding service into a modern, cutting-edge service.
4. At this level it would be expected that some first line management is done.
5. Undertakes clinical supervision & training of trainee staff
6. Updates own professional knowledge, keeping abreast of new technology and practice.
7. Maintain record of continuous professional development and meet all requirements for maintaining registration of AHCS / HPC and British Academy of Audiology. Work towards higher levels of professional competence.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

Clinical Duties (note specialist audiologist post-holders' specific range of clinical duties will vary based on service requirements)

1. Adult and/or paediatric hearing:
 - a) Undertake battery of audiological testing to enable differential diagnosis of auditory dysfunction.
 - b) Auditory (re)habilitation, selecting fitting and exchanging standard and non-standard hearing aids.
 - c) Taking aural impressions and fitting ear moulds including any necessary modifications.
 - d) Pre-fitting counselling and hearing aid follow-ups.
 - e) Hearing aid repairs/checks.
 - f) Carry out direct referral assessment procedures for hearing aid fitting on those patients that meet the criteria.
 - g) Advice on assistive listening devices.
2. Population-specific:
 - a) Provision of support to parents of children under Audiology's care. Explain results to parents and/or patients, sometimes dealing with strong emotions such as distress, frustration or denial.
 - b) Carry out assessment and aural rehabilitation on patients with additional special needs other than hearing loss.
3. Performing more advanced test procedures with direct/indirect supervision as per the service needs, such as but not limited to:
 - a) Objective test procedures including evoked response audiometry and OAE.
 - b) Routine vestibular function tests.
4. Hearing therapy:

- a) Evaluate and manage patients with tinnitus and/or hyperacusis, using a variety of techniques.
- b) Assessing the quality of residual hearing and the further use that can be made of this capacity.
- c) Assessment and management of communication training to include but not limited to formal and informal auditory training, communication therapy and hearing tactics, as well as lipreading training at an introductory level.*
- d) Able to provide hearing therapy services to groups.

5. Non-standard site work:

- a) Undertake domiciliary work (audiometric assessments, impression taking and fitting of hearing aids) if required.
- b) Provision of audiological services at outreach clinics

6. Good scientific practice:

- a) Supervise the work of trainee and junior audiologists and provide guidance and support in audiological techniques to trainees studying for professional examinations.
- b) Understand and apply evidence based clinical care.
- c) Seek medical input as required.
- d) Close liaison with medical staff and hearing rehabilitation services to ensure the effectiveness of routine services.

Administration & Management

1. Project management around service development, under the supervision of the advanced audiologists and Head of Service.
2. Pass on to the appropriate person constructive views and ideas regarding service development within the department and collaborate with the necessary higher grade(s) to implement positive change.
3. Prepare reports for referring clinicians using AuditBase; maintain good clinical records including (adhering to audit commission 1995 guidance for good practice for case notes).
4. To be involved in the maintenance and calibration of Audiology Equipment.
5. Regular attendance at staff meetings.
6. Contribute to service development within the department.
7. Knowledge of medical records.
8. Ability to access iClip / Auditbase and check appointments.
9. Understand organisational and clinical performance indicators.
10. Any other duties that may be necessary to develop and improve the Audiology Services

Education

1. Assist in the induction of new staff and student training.
2. Participate in departmental teaching and Continuing Professional Development program.

3. Take charge of own continuous professional development through self-development and liaising with the Audiology Head of Service regarding training needs.
4. Participate in IT training as deemed necessary
5. Participate in relevant in-house training programme for existing and new devices
6. Participate in research projects within the department.
7. Identify training and development needs.
8. Take part in annual performance review.
9. The post holder is expected to keep up to date with current literature and developments, to attend national conferences.

Quality Control

1. Participate in Clinical Governance and Audit projects.
2. Comply with Trust Health and Safety policy.
3. Assist in maintaining a healthy, safe and secure working environment for everyone who is in contact with the Trust.
4. Discuss with the Audiology Head of Service changes needed in own practice and training needs.
5. Alert the Audiology head of service when direction, policies and strategies are adversely affecting users of the service or the public

Other Duties and Responsibilities

1. To have the responsibility for the health, safety and welfare of self and others and to comply at all times with the requirements of Health and Safety Regulations.
2. To ensure confidentiality at all times, only releasing confidential information obtained during the course of employment to those acting in an official capacity in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act and its amendments.
3. To work at all times as part of the health care team.
4. To comply with the Trust's equal opportunities policy and to promote equal opportunities at all times.
5. To comply with the Trust's No Smoking Policy.
6. To undertake such other duties as may be required from time to time that is consistent with the responsibilities of the grade.
7. Work within the Trust values of being kind, excellent, responsible and respectful.

NOTE: This job description is not an exhaustive document but an outline of the current position and may be subject to alteration in detail or emphasis in the light of future changes or developments.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

Agreement by Postholder(s)

I agree to the contents and duties set out in this job description.



Outstanding care
every time

Signature of Post holder:

Date:



St George's University Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Print Name:

Signature of Manager:

Print Name:

Date:
