



CSVS

THE COLLEGE AND SOCIETY
FOR CLINICAL VASCULAR SCIENCE
Great Britain and Ireland

Professional Standards

Vascular Practitioner Job Description

Version 1.0

May 2024

Doc Ref PS-SM017.



Vascular Practitioner Job Description

Version 1.0

May 2024

Doc Ref PS-SM017

Version Number	Change	Author	Date
1.0	New document	Author: PSC Approval: CSVS Exec Committee	May 2024

Purpose

This document was prepared by the Professional Standards Committee (PSC) of the College and Society for Clinical Vascular Science (CSVs) to support the writing of local job descriptions for Vascular Science. This document may be used in its entirety (or referenced in part with suitable additions made by local policy implementers) by all parties involved with clinical vascular science. Suggestions for improving this document are welcome and should be sent to the Chair of the PSC (see csvs.org.uk for current PSC Chair details).

Note the coloured text will help highlight areas of specific expertise such as education or research, however some or all or the specialist vascular scientist roles may be applicable.

See the CSVs Scope of Practice for Diagnostic Procedures for additional information.



Band 5	Vascular Practitioner Job Description, Version 1, May 2024
Job Summary	<p>A Vascular Practitioner role is to provide a defined range of routine specialist diagnostic vascular ultrasound tests, and provide clinical scientific support to healthcare professionals such as vascular surgery and other specialties. To work as a part of a multi-disciplinary vascular team, this may include Clinical Vascular Scientists, Vascular Consultants, Vascular Nurse Specialists and podiatrists. Demonstrate autonomy to undertake and report on a range of vascular science diagnostic investigations appropriate to scope of practice, including ultrasound and other non-invasive tests. The service provided is integral to clinical decision making.</p> <p>The Vascular Practitioner scope of practice can include performing and independently reporting following a defined protocol:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B-Mode ultrasound scans of Abdominal Aorta, Iliac, CFA & Popliteal arteries for initial screening and for aneurysm surveillance. • B-Mode ultrasound for superficial vein mapping • B-Mode ultrasound scan for DVT • Non-Invasive tests: ABPI, Toe pressure, TCPO², Plethysmography, Pulse Volume Recordings, Thermography, Capillaroscopy measurements (as required), used for screening or diagnosis of peripheral vascular disease. <p>Additional duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in the provision of supervised exercise testing programmes in relation to claudication or AAA as required • Perform routine clinical audit, and sometimes research • Assist with Vascular Administration duties as required. • Provide support and training to junior staff and other healthcare staff.
1. Communication & Relationship Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of working independently following defined SOPs, flexible/adaptable working, and as part of multidisciplinary teams • Excellent oral and written communication skills, providing and receiving complex information • Excellent interpersonal skills across all levels receiving and exchanging complex information with Medical, Nursing, Technical, Scientific, and Clerical staff • Communicate the nature of, and reasons for the investigation, and where appropriate the findings of the investigation or other technical information to patients, relatives or carers -including those whose first language is not English, have learning difficulties, are elderly, or who may have barriers or difficulties to understanding. • Able to establish & maintain effective working professional relationships and networks with peers and relevant stakeholders including external parties. • Able to build confidence and trust with patients in a clinical environment by applying a professional, sympathetic and empathic approach, and recognise

	<p>potentially sensitive, distressing or complex situations or aggressive and abusive situations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate or attend, where required, team or MDT meetings.
2. Knowledge, Training & Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Bachelor's Degree (Honours) Healthcare Science (Vascular) or equivalent level of knowledge • Maintain up to date scientific, technical knowledge and training of vascular science by attending relevant meetings and / or CPD activities • Attain & maintain relevant professional registration (such as AHCS Healthcare Science Practitioner register) and appropriate CPD activity.
3. Analytical & Judgemental Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to reflect and appraise own performance • Analyse and interpret relevant requests and referrals appropriate to scope of practice in order to review, triage and perform appropriate investigations to answer the clinical question and diagnosis • Analyse and interpret ultrasound blood-flow and non-imaging data, appropriate to scope of practice, for producing highly detailed, concise and accurate reports to referring clinicians to enable appropriate and timely clinical decision-making. • Undertake basic quality assurance checks and monitoring of ultrasound equipment and vascular testing equipment as per departmental protocol
4. Planning & Organisational Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to work on own initiative, plan, manage and prioritise workload, work to deadlines. • Flexible, objective and adaptable as situation demands • Responsibility for organisation of non-complex clinical and personal workload. Ability to prioritise workload in response to changing clinical circumstances, particularly in the advent of urgent or emergency situations • Working as part of the team to ensure efficient day-to-day provision of the vascular diagnostic scanning service • To ensure work is delivered in accordance to department SOP and required deadlines. • To understand the appraisal process including following personal development plans and achieving planned objectives
5. Physical Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform a range of diagnostic duplex ultrasound scans appropriate to scope of practice, and non-imaging investigations which often require long duration of physical fine movement for probe manipulation, using skilled hand eye coordination and ensuring appropriate patient positioning.
6. Responsibility for Patient/ Client Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to demonstrate a commitment to and understanding of the importance of treating all individuals with dignity and respect, appropriate to their individual needs. • provides clinical scientific and technical vascular services to patients appropriate to scope of practice • Provide advice, support, and information to patients relevant to their care. • To ensure the health & safety of patients and others within your care, including appropriate management of risks. • Vascular Practitioners are expected to engage in compassionate and inclusive working practice in the provision of high quality care and interactions with others • Identify patients requiring urgent attention/admission, or delay of planned discharge of patients, and ensure urgent clinical review accordingly e.g. due to the discovery of significant pathology and/or symptoms where there is a high risk of limb loss, stroke or other complications. Where required, arrange fast-track onward referral, appropriate to scope of practice or escalate to trained staff as appropriate • Be aware when to seek timely assistance from Clinical Vascular Scientists depending on patient symptoms and/or pathology found during the course of the investigation.
7. Responsibility for Policy/ Service Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follows departmental policies and procedures, and comment on the development and review of new and existing departmental policies and protocols appropriate to scope of practice. • Adhere to all Trust/Company Policies and Guidelines

8. Responsibility for Financial & Physical Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report defective equipment as per local policy and remove it from service. Where appropriate, organise the repair of equipment through medical physics or other medical equipment management services. • Ensure that clinical work areas and diagnostic equipment are kept in a safe, clean and tidy condition • Responsibility for the use of expensive and highly complex and/or expensive (>£50k) diagnostic equipment • Assist with assessment of equipment considered for procurement where required • Monitor and/or maintain supplies, stock levels and consumables to ensure that there is effective management of resources including storage and usage • Bring to the attention of the budget holder any concerns, ideas, or creative solutions relevant to the effective use and management of supplies and resources • Responsible for the day to day safe use and management of all equipment.
9. Responsibility for Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for day-to day supervision of junior/trainee practitioners • Provision of training in own specialism (eg. ABPI or AAA) including practical training or work-based assessments • Provides relevant teaching, advice, or demonstrates vascular scientific activities to other healthcare professionals e.g. nursing, medical staff, allied health professionals and students within or outside of the department, appropriate to level of current training and competency • To undertake appropriate training where required in relation to specific teaching or mentoring duties.
10. Responsibility for Information Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for recording personally generated information (for example test reports) and ensuring reports are saved onto the appropriate information storage systems such as PACS • Ability to utilise and access information systems to enter data such as clinical observations, test results, case reports or research data. • Responsibility to ensure appropriate information governance
11. Responsibility for Research and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in regular departmental QA and audit activities as integral part of work. • Undertakes equipment testing as required • May occasionally have some involvement in clinical and scientific research or medical trials as required
12. Freedom to Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of vascular diagnostics following operating procedures (SOPs), utilising good practice, to clearly defined standards and competency. • Advise clinicians of any limitations that may affect the accuracy of requested investigations and where appropriate, recommend alternative diagnostic imaging techniques or modalities. (For example: performing a Toe pressure when an ABPI reading is incompressible, or recommending alternative imaging when an aneurysm cannot be adequately imaged with ultrasound) • Follows appropriate codes of conduct
13. Physical Effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The physical ability to perform a range of diagnostic duplex ultrasound tests appropriate to scope of practice (often 15-30 minutes per patient) for a full working shift, and can involve physical effort associated with bending, reaching and holding strenuous positions for a period during a test or scan. • Assist patients who may need pushing in a wheelchair, assisted transfer such as from a chair to examination couch (which may include using manual handling aids), or physical effort required for bedside scanning in confined spaces, including restricted positioning of patient and / or Vascular Practitioner. • The ability to manoeuvre heavy equipment such as the wheel-based ultrasound machines (>100kg), with frequent small movements during the duration of a scan investigation, and movements of equipment associated with pre- and post-scan room setup.
14. Mental Effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to process and organise simple and complex information

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occasional requirement, of prolonged concentration performing ultrasound investigations appropriate to scope of practice.
15. Emotional Effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly communicate to patients the nature of, and reasons for the investigation, and where appropriate the findings of the investigation appropriate to scope of practice. Use discretion and tact, and expert knowledge to deal sensitively with patients Occasional receipt of highly distressing information from patients which may raise safeguarding or other issues which need to be reported and escalated. Occasional exposure to challenging behavioural issues, which may include physical or verbal abuse, such as patients with severe dementia.
16. Working Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to deal with frequent unpleasant situations where there may be body fluids, odours and open wounds, and infection risks. Occasional exposure to verbal or physical aggression To work with awareness of the risks and appropriate use of VDU's and workstations on a daily basis. To work with awareness of the risks of repetitive strain injuries and work related upper limb disorders associated with ultrasound scanning and practice to reduce risk of incidence. To work with an understanding of the potential hazards and bio-effects of ultrasound in order to ensure safe use in medical applications. Understand relevant national and international safety guidelines. Perform diagnostic vascular investigations occasionally in confined spaces, such as bedside scans.