

## **ANATOMICAL PATHOLOGY TECHNICIAN / TECHNOLOGIST (APT)**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Anatomical Pathology Technicians (APTs), also known as Anatomical Pathology Technologists, carry out a wide range of tasks related to mortuary service delivery. APTs can be based within an NHS Hospital Mortuary or a Local Authority Public Mortuary. One of their many tasks is to provide assistance and support to Pathologists in conducting postmortem examinations. As an APT becomes more experienced their role in the mortuary will change and their responsibilities will increase.

As well as postmortem examination work, APTs are also responsible for the day-to-day running of the mortuary, ensuring accurate record keeping and ensuring Health and Safety and Human Tissue Authority legislation is adhered to.

Anatomical Pathology Technician duties include –

- Assisting pathologists and other experts with the examination of adults, children and babies who may have died of natural causes or suffered death in traumatic circumstances
- Identifying and preparing the deceased and setting up of equipment required to carry out a postmortem examination
- Helping with the removal of tissues and organs
- Taking and recording samples for analysis
- Reconstructing the body after the postmortem
- Cleaning and disinfection of equipment, instruments and surfaces of the postmortem suite
- Keeping accurate records both of the deceased and their property
- Maintaining the mortuary and postmortem room, ensuring equipment and instruments are kept clean, sterile and ready for use
- Ensure legal documentation is dealt with correctly
- In some centres the APT is involved in taking consent for postmortems and accompanying the bereaved during viewings, as well as offering practical advice regarding the law and procedures following the death
- Providing support and after care for the bereaved
- Liaising with medical and nursing staff as well as outside agencies such as funeral directors, local authorities, police and religious representatives
- Assisting with tissue retrieval including enucleations for transplant

### **INDUSTRY REQUIREMENTS**

There are no minimum qualifications required to become a trainee APT, however, most employers will prefer applicants with at least a GCSE in English, Maths and Science, or an equivalent qualification. Some centres require a much higher level of education depending on the roles undertaken by the APT.

Trainee APTs begin their training with a short period of observation, followed by direct involvement in the work under the supervision of pathologists and senior APTs. During the first two years a candidate is expected to study towards the Royal Institute of Public

## Health (RIPH) **Certificate in Anatomical Pathology Technology.**

APTs holding this certificate may go on, after a further two-year period of training to take the RIPH **Diploma in Anatomical Pathology Technology**. The diploma proves the APT's ability to provide scientific and practical assistance to the Pathologist. The diploma acknowledges the APT's ability to take charge of a mortuary and to instruct assistants in safe practices.

## **REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

There are no statutory registration requirements.

However, the Association of Anatomical Pathology Technologists is actively encouraging suitably qualified APTs to join the Voluntary Register in preparation for formal registration with the Health Professions Council (HPC) in 2009.

## **CASEWORKER TREATMENT**

### **B&C**

The post meets the skill criteria when the post requires the candidates to hold the RIPH Certificate in Anatomical Pathology Technology (or equivalent), or above, and three years previous experience.

### **TWES**

#### **Training**

This occupation is suitable for TWES Training if the Overseas National is working towards the RIPH Diploma in Anatomical Pathology Technology and the TWES criteria are satisfied.

#### **Work Experience**

This occupation is suitable for TWES Work Experience if the work experience being offered is at a standard equivalent to, or above, NVQ Level 3 and the TWES work experience criteria are satisfied.

## **SALARY**

The following information is taken from the NHS Agenda for Change, local variations may apply and some APTs are employed by local authorities on a different pay scale.

| <b>Job Title</b>                                 | <b>Band</b> | <b>Salary</b>     |
|--|-------------|-------------------|
| Anatomical Pathology Technician                  | Band 4      | £16,853 - £20,261 |
| Anatomical Pathology Technologist – Higher Level | Band 5      | £19,683 - £25,424 |
| Anatomical Pathology Technologist – Higher Level | Band 6      | £23,458 - £31,779 |

|   |              |                   |
|---|--------------|-------------------|
| Anatomical Pathology<br>Technologist – Higher Level | Band 7       | £28,313 - £37,326 |
| Anatomical Pathology<br>Technologist – Higher Level | Band 8 A – D | £36,112 - £75,114 |

APT's may be paid extra for being on call. Those working in or around London receive an additional allowance.

## ADVERTISING

Vacancies are advertised through the NHS, specialist journals and websites, the local and national press and via the jobcentre.

### Medical Laboratory World

Wilmington Publishing Ltd,  
Wilmington House,  
Maidstone Road,  
Foots Cray  
Sidcup,  
DA14 5HZ,  
Telephone: 020 8269 7745  
Fax: 020 8269 7805  
Website: [www.mlwmagazine.com](http://www.mlwmagazine.com)  
E-Mail: [msansom@wilmington.co.uk](mailto:msansom@wilmington.co.uk)

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### Royal Institute of Public Health (RIPH)

28 Portland Place  
London  
W1B 1DE  
Tel: 0207 580 2731  
Fax: 0207 580 6157  
Website: [www.riph.org.uk](http://www.riph.org.uk)  
E-mail: [nseeff@riph.org.uk](mailto:nseeff@riph.org.uk)

### Association of Anatomical Pathology Technologists (AAPT)

12 Coldbath Square  
London  
EC1R 5HL  
Tel: 020 7278 2151  
Website: [www.aaptuk.org](http://www.aaptuk.org)  
E-mail: [mail@aaptuk.org](mailto:mail@aaptuk.org)