

OPERATING DEPARTMENT PRACTITIONER

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Operating Department Practitioners (ODPs) are workers who specialise in providing patient care during surgical processes. This is known as peri-operative care. ODPs work as part of a multidisciplinary operating theatre team and use clinical skills to prepare a range of specialist equipment and to provide individualised patient care during the 3 phases of peri-operative care: anaesthetic, surgery and recovery.

INDUSTRY REQUIREMENTS

Trainees can study for any of the following:

- BTEC National Certificate in Science (Medical Physics and Physiological Measurement);
- NVQ Level 2 Operating Department Support;
- NVQ Level 3 in Operating Department Practice;
- Diploma in Higher Education (DipHE) in Operating Department Practice.
- Prior to 1991, ODPs were known as Operating Department Assistants (ODAs) and workers studied for the City and Guilds ODA Certificate 752.

REGISTRATION WITH A PROFESSIONAL BODY

The job title of ODP is a protected title. Employers are obliged by law only to employ a registered ODP. If you use the protected title you are required to be registered. This title is not limited just to the NHS. Registration of ODPs is the responsibility of the Health Professions Council (HPC) who took over this role from the Association of Operating Department Practitioners (ADOP). Unregistered workers have until November 2006 to gain HPC registration. If a worker does not gain registration by this date, they will no longer be able to legally practice as an ODP in the UK.

To gain registration, workers need one of the following qualifications:

- NVQ level 3 in Operating Department Practice or equivalent;
- City and Guilds Certificate 752 or equivalent.

Overseas qualified workers need to apply to the HPC's International Registration Department, who assess the worker's overseas applicants on education, training, and experience to determine if these are comparable to the HPC standards of proficiency for ODP's and If they are found to be comparable, registration will be granted.

WORK PERMITS (UK) TREATMENT

B&C: Only jobs that require a worker to be HPC registered, in addition to having 3 years work experience at a standard equivalent to the NVQ Level 3 in Operating Theatre Practice, meet the criteria. If an overseas worker is not registered with HPC, they are not entitled to use the job title and they must submit their qualifications for assessment and registration before a work permit application is submitted.

TWES: This occupation is not suitable for TWES training.

TWES Work Experience: This occupation is suitable when a worker is HPC registered and the work experience programme is at a standard equivalent to NVQ Level 3 in Operating Theatre Practice.

SALARY

Operating Department Practitioners are currently paid according to the Medical Technical Officer (MTO) pay scales. Currently, employers in both the public and private sector use the Whitley updated pay scales for April 2005, that will be assimilated into the Agenda for Change in October 2005.

Current MTOs salaries

Per annum for a 37 hour working week

MTO 2: £16,056 - £22,857

MTO 3: £21,135 - £27,808

MTO 4: £24,719 - £32,531

MTO 5: £30,074 - £39,577

Additional allowances are often paid depending on region.

Salaries in the private sector are broadly comparable with those in the public sector.

ADVERTISING

Jobs may be advertised in specialist medical journals such as the AODP journal, or on relevant websites such as the AODP website at <http://www.aodp.org/>, www.healthjobsuk.com and <http://www.jobs.nhs.uk/>.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Health Professions Council (HPC), Park house, 184 Kennington Park Road, London SE11 4BU. Tel: 0207 820 9684 Fax: 0207 582 0866. Website: www.hpc-uk.org
Internal Registration Team. Tel DDI: 0207 840 9804

AODP, The Enterprise Centre, 112 Malling Street, Lewes, East Sussex. BN7 2RJ, Tel: 0870 746 0984, Fax: 0870 746 0985, E-mail: office@adop.org, Website: <http://www.aodp.org/>.