

## Pearson BTEC Level 4 Certificate in Healthcare Science (QCF)

**Qualification Number: 601/5722/7**

### What is the purpose of this qualification?

The BTEC Level 4 Certificate in Healthcare Science provides an introduction to the role of Healthcare Science Associate.

This qualification has been developed as a result of the Modernising Scientific Careers (MSC) programme led by Health Education England on behalf of the Department of Health to ensure that the healthcare science workforce will be fit to respond to future scientific and technological advances.

### What does this qualification cover?

This is a work-based qualification that combines competence and technical knowledge to give learners the practical competencies, technical skills and sector-related knowledge they need to be able to carry out their job effectively.

The qualification covers the mandatory core of education and training programmes for level 4 of the MSC Career Framework.

Learners will complete the following 5 units totalling 15 credits:

1. Using the Scientific Method in Healthcare Science Research
2. Roles and Responsibilities in Healthcare Science
3. Partnership Working in Healthcare Science
4. Safety, Security and Wellbeing in the Healthcare Science Environment
5. Investigating, Treating and Managing Human Disease and Disorders

### How is the qualification assessed?

Learners will be set assignments by their training providers in order to compile a portfolio of evidence demonstrating how they are meeting the knowledge, understanding and skills requirements of the qualification.

### Who could take this qualification?

Applicants to the role of Healthcare Science Associate are generally required to have A levels, including a science subject, plus experience of working in a laboratory setting.

Learners for this qualification will either already be employed in the role of Healthcare Science Associate or they will be aiming to be employed as a Healthcare Science Associate in one of the following three areas:

#### **Biological (life) science**

Those applying biological (life) sciences may work in pathology and genetics clinical laboratories where they analyse blood, tissues, cells and other body fluids, describing abnormalities and interpreting what this means for people who are ill.

#### **Physiological science**

Those applying physiological sciences work in services which assess the functioning of major organ systems such as the heart, brain and lungs and the impact that disease or treatment may have on them.

#### **Physics and Bioengineering specialisms**

Those that apply physics and bioengineering may work in medical physics where they ensure that x-rays and other imaging services such as MRI and ultrasound are safe to use on people.

Healthcare Science Associates undertake protocol driven investigative tasks and treatment procedures with appropriate supervision, either by a Healthcare Science Practitioner at MSC Career Framework levels 5 or 6, or a Healthcare Scientist at MSC Career Framework level 6 or above.

**What could this qualification lead to?**

Learners who achieve the BTEC Level 4 Certificate in Healthcare Science will have the opportunity to progress within their job role of Healthcare Science Associate.

Healthcare Science Associates may have the opportunity to progress to Practitioner training, through undertaking an approved and accredited BSc honours degree in healthcare science.

**Who supports this qualification?**

This qualification is accredited on the Qualifications and Credit Framework regulated by Ofqual. It has been developed as part of Health Education England's Modernising Scientific Careers programme and is supported by the NHS in England.