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**Ben McCleary**

## Ben McCleary is a physiotherapy assistant practitioner.

## Currently I am working as a Physiotherapy Assistant Practitioner (PAP), however also studying a master’s Apprenticeship in Physiotherapy and leadership. As a practitioner I work on various wards such as Transplant, Thoracic, RSSC, Chest medical unit and CF seeing various conditions in a Cardiothoracic setting. The PAP role allows myself to have autonomy over my patients care to develop them to ensure safe discharge home. As a trust, patients get seen daily and having a PAP role alongside the Physiotherapy team allows all patients to gain adequate sessions and feel benefit from each session without much time restraints.

## The apprenticeship has allowed me to broaden my knowledge within Physiotherapy so that I can identify any potential deterioration and escalate to a Physiotherapist, however also it allows my clinical reasoning behind patient sessions to be improved leading to more diverse and specialist care. What attracted you to being a support worker? From completing a degree in Sport and Exercise science prior to joining Papworth, I have always wanted to use my knowledge and skills to help people who need it the most. Therefore, a hospital session was appropriate for me. However due to knowing I needed further qualifications to develop and progress my career within the NHS, a support worker role allowed me to gain access to the NHS to start that experience and career path.

## Firstly, my experience as a PAP allowed me to be considered to enrol onto the Physiotherapy Apprenticeship course. It has allowed me to clinical reason behind my treatments to allow for more specialist care to be given. It has also allowed me to contribute more towards team discussions and ask questions about why these treatments have been implemented.

## My proudest moment is enrolling and succeeding at my Physiotherapy Apprenticeship so far.

## It allows you to become more autonomous with patient care and treatment. It provides a pathway for career development. Don’t feel that at this role you are stuck, more options are becoming available for career development… be proactive!