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# Jack Herman

**Jack Herman is a major trauma assistant practitioner.**

As a major trauma assistant practitioner, I work alongside the MT lead and MT practitioner to ensure patients who have sustained a traumatic injury are provided with a level of therapeutic intervention to effectively recover from illness and seek to improve their wider health outcomes. I work with therapists and alongside patients to provide additional rehabilitation that this at-risk group require to ensure they regain as much physical independence and occupational function as possible. I support families and ensure they receive the wider help they need to overcome barriers they are facing during hospital admission and during transitions back into the community. By providing follow-up outpatient rehab I ensure patients are fully supported during their transition back to life after injury, including further ADL intervention, mobility progression and provision of advice and support.

What attracted me to being a support worker was the entry level gateway into a specialist field of healthcare and the ability to gain vocational skills via workplace learning. I’ve had the opportunity to enhance my clinical knowledge & understanding of rehabilitation & therapy intervention without a healthcare related degree and completed the level 3 health & social care apprenticeship as I worked when I entered the workplace at band 2.

The introduction of AHP degree apprenticeships has meant that I now have the ability to progress my clinical skills and become a certified therapist whilst I continue to work as a Band 4. The opportunities for learning that I have been given, I feel, have consolidated my learning and understanding of therapy and rehabilitative practice in a way more traditional career routes.

By knowing that I can make a difference to the lives of the patients and families I work alongside by providing support, knowledge and reassurance at a time when they have gone through a potentially life-threatening event makes me incredibly proud. I have seen and contributed to the growth and scope of AHP support worker roles, and we continue to push the boundaries of what has been deemed possible to achieve by ‘non-certified’ AHP staff. We provide a form of patient care that bridges the divide between patient and health care professional. AHP support workers are an amazing group of people who come into the role from a variety of social backgrounds and bring a wealth of knowledge if only higher education pathways were available.

Being an AHP support worker is a fantastic way to grow your clinical skills and access clinical experiences if you are looking to qualify as a certified AHP. It is an alternative route into healthcare for those who wish to take a more vocational pathway into their career. The variety of clinical and non-clinical responsibilities within AHP support worker roles mean that you are able to gain valuable soft skills.

If what is really important to you is being able to support those in need and you have a passion for learning meaningful practical skills that you can utilise for the benefit of others, I honestly believe there is no better way to gain that opportunity or a quicker route to gain hands-on, real-world experience than by becoming an AHP support worker.