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# Victoria Farress-Gregg

## Victoria Farress-Gregg is a Podiatry Assistant Practitioner at Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust. Read below her thoughts and experiences of working as an AHP support worker.

### My role is an autonomous one, it involves working under the direction of a podiatrists written treatment plan. My skill competencies include scalpel debridement, enucleation of corns and callus, detailed record keeping following the SOAPE or SBAR note keeping formats. I am also competent to fit insoles, dress foot wounds and carry out vascular checks such as ankle brachial pressure index/ toe brachial pressure index. Carrying out these procedures takes some of the work load off of the podiatrists so they can concentrate on the higher risk patients.

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The training and development via an apprenticeship scheme at the local university has improved my knowledge and understanding of the podiatry assistant practitioner role. Being a mature learner and embarking on the journey within academia has been a challenge but it has been so worth it. I left school with no qualifications; my department helped me to achieve the qualifications I needed to progress. The course has allowed me to move through the NHS banding from 3, to the top of band 4. The training has been impeccable, meeting fellow students, building relationships has been an experience of a lifetime.

**I am so proud to have achieved a BSc first class honours degree in enhanced integrated care something I thought I would never have. I am proud to call myself a podiatry assistant practitioner, having the skills and knowledge that are podiatry based are an asset to my department. Lastly, I am proud to work for an NHS podiatry department with whom are a professional highly skilled supportive team.**

The National Health Service is an amazing constitution of which I am proud to be a part of. it belongs to the people of the United Kingdom and is founded on a common set of principles and values that bind together the communities and people it serves -patients and public – and the staff who work for it.

Becoming an AHP support worker is a rewarding role putting on your uniform and representing the NHS is an honour. The skills and knowledge you learn are a foundation to use to further your career be it within podiatry or other Allied Health Professions.

**A kind note sent to me from a patient;**

**“I just wanted to say a big thank you for helping us. My daughter is a few weeks post nail surgery, and is recovering really well. If it wasn’t for you arranging an appointment with the nail surgery team, she would still be struggling to cope, Many thanks “**

Since starting to work for the NHS in 2006 I haven’t looked back. I have been supported with my city and guilds, NVQ3 in healthcare practice, foundation degree health and social care and BSc HONS in enhanced integrated care. Not bad for someone that left school with minimal qualifications. Don’t feel you can’t progress; the apprenticeship scheme is there to support you from whatever background you are from. They will signpost you to the relevant course you are interested in and support you to gain the correct qualifications to progress in your chosen field.