

# Healthcare Science Career of the Week



## Surgical Care Practitioner

Area of HCS: Medical Associate Professions

Pay Scale: £27k - £43k

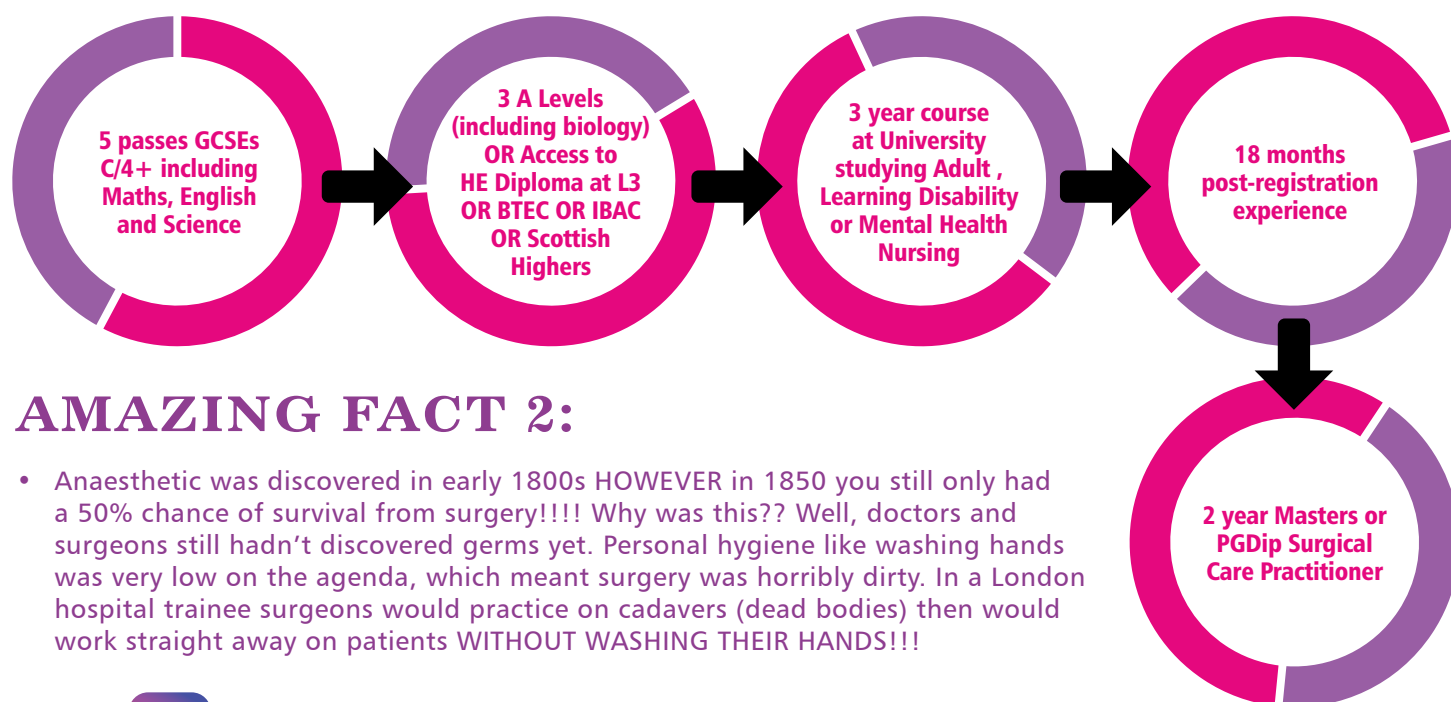
### AMAZING FACT

- Surgery was practiced as early as 1600 BC by the Egyptians. There are copies of scrolls showing doctors splitting an injured leg or draining an abscess. Mummies also show us that dental surgery was common place too!

As a surgical care practitioner is your role to support the surgeons before, during and after surgery. You'll support the surgeon as first or second assistant and be heavily involved in patient care every step of the way. As well as working in theatre, you'll be on wards and in clinics. You even get to carry out your own surgical procedures!!!! You won't be carrying out complex brain surgery BUT you do still get to do cool stuff like facial skin grafts, harvesting veins and carpal tunnel surgery (surgery on the wrist to release pressure on a nerve).

Patient care is one of the key parts of your job: it is your role to assess the patient before surgery to ensure they are healthy and fit. You'll do daily ward rounds, take operation notes and provide the best after surgery care, including deciding and arranging patient discharge. You also get to do some pre-ops like venepuncture (prepping veins to take blood) and catheterisation (for fluid drainage). There are teaching opportunities too, you will help train the next generation of surgeons and you get to prescribe medicine, this is a role few in the NHS outside of doctors are privileged enough to do! There is a heavy focus in this role on teamwork and providing top quality care for patients.

### What to do to get into this career...



### AMAZING FACT 2:

- Anaesthetic was discovered in early 1800s HOWEVER in 1850 you still only had a 50% chance of survival from surgery!!!! Why was this?? Well, doctors and surgeons still hadn't discovered germs yet. Personal hygiene like washing hands was very low on the agenda, which meant surgery was horribly dirty. In a London hospital trainee surgeons would practice on cadavers (dead bodies) then would work straight away on patients WITHOUT WASHING THEIR HANDS!!!



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### Other roles you might be interested in:

- Theatre nurse
- Anaesthetist
- Theatre support worker
- Surgeon
- Operating department practitioner