

Mammography Associate Practitioner Case Study

Joanne Hammond, Deputy Superintendent Radiographer for Breast Screening at University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust, talks about their experience of Mammography Associates.

We've had Assistant Practitioners supporting our mammography service for many years and have welcomed the opportunity to take on Mammography Associates via the apprenticeship route. Our support workforce works alongside our radiographers as part of our multi-disciplinary team adding additional capacity to our screening and diagnostic services, staffing our breast screening vans, chaperoning in symptomatic clinics and supporting with imaging.



We have found the Mammography Associates to be a very loyal workforce. Radiographers are getting harder and harder to recruit so it's useful to have the flexibility to bring in other types of staff and their varied backgrounds brings diversity to our team. We've had hairdressers, people from care homes, as well as those in screening admin roles joining the apprenticeship programme – their wide-ranging life experiences and age range brings fresh perspectives and provides new career opportunities for our local community that benefits us and our patients.

Our apprentices all report good things about the 12 month training programme at the National Breast Imaging Academy in Manchester too – they like the structure of the training; feel well supported; and enjoy the learning. The ability to study for maths and English qualifications alongside their mammography training really opens up the qualification to a wider range of applicants.

I'd really recommend exploring the mammography associate apprentice route to other units looking to address workforce challenges - they have proved an invaluable addition.

The National Breast Imaging Academy is run in collaboration with NHS England and is hosted by Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust