
CAREERS FOR FUNCTIONAL ASSESSORS IN DISABILITY ASSESSMENT MEDICINE

Disability Assessment Medicine is concerned with an individuals' function in relation to medical conditions.

- Functional Assessors are specialist practitioners in disability assessment
- Disability assessment medicine takes note of diagnoses as these may give some indication regarding possible functional impact, however, diagnosis is not the primary focus
- This role does not require you to diagnose, prescribe, or take responsibility for the ongoing treatment of the claimants that you assess.
- Your responsibility is to write a report that accurately reflects their level of disability, in accordance with current legislation

If you are making your first steps away from clinical medicine, and are exploring other options, then working as a functional assessor may suit you. It may give you an insight into a variety of different areas including the DWP and may be an interesting role for those who are considering pursuing a career in Occupational Medicine. There are options for career progression – you can become a senior assessor, where your role will involve auditing cases and training, and you can be trained to assess for other specialities.

What skills do I need to work as a functional assessor?

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Good time management
- Enthusiasm about career development
- Strong written skills
- A non-judgemental nature

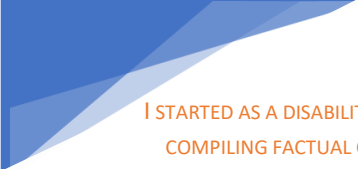
What are the pros of the role?

- Exposure to a variety of different clinical areas, conditions, and assessment types
- Excellent career progression opportunities
- No physical demands that other healthcare jobs may have
- Flexibility

I am interested. How do I apply?

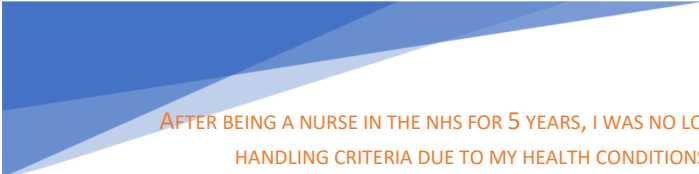
Simply type 'functional assessor' into job search engines and this will likely show up with a link to the agency that is advertising the role... Your first contact may be with an agency, or you can apply directly.

Testimonies




I STARTED AS A DISABILITY ASSESSOR IN 2014 CONDUCTING FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENTS AND COMPILING FACTUAL CLINICAL REPORTS FOR THE DWP. I HAVE SINCE PROGRESSED INTO A CAREER WITHIN DISABILITY ASSESSMENT MEDICINE AS A CLINICAL GOVERNANCE LEAD AND FEEL THIS AREA HAS OFFERED ME SUCH A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE I COULD NEVER HAVE OBTAINED IN NURSING ALONE.

Rebecca Sparks - Clinical Governance Lead for Stakeholder Engagement PIP



AFTER BEING A NURSE IN THE NHS FOR 5 YEARS, I WAS NO LONGER ABLE TO MEET THE MANUAL HANDLING CRITERIA DUE TO MY HEALTH CONDITIONS. CONSEQUENTLY, I STARTED AS A DISABILITY ASSESSOR IN 2016. I HAVE SINCE WORKED IN A VARIETY OF CLINICAL ROLES, CURRENTLY WORKING AS THE HEAD OF CLINICAL QUALITY. WORKING WITHIN DISABILITY MEDICINE HAS ALLOWED ME TO DEVELOP OPERATIONAL AND CLINICAL SKILLS I WOULD NOT HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP IN MY PREVIOUS ROLE.

Annalise Edwards - Head of Clinical Quality PIP



PRIOR TO TRAINING IN DISABILITY ASSESSMENT MEDICINE I WAS A GP FOR 11 YEARS, WORKING AS A PARTNER AND A LOCUM. I THEN WORKED FULL-TIME CARRYING OUT FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENTS FOR THE DWP, GRADUALLY EXPANDING THE RANGE OF BENEFITS THAT I WAS QUALIFIED TO PROVIDE REPORTS ON AND BECOMING AN AUDITOR. IN 2005 I MOVED TO PROVIDING MEDICAL ADVICE ON DISABILITY AND FUNCTION IN RELATION TO INCOME PROTECTION INSURANCE CLAIMS. MY CURRENT ROLE ALSO INVOLVES PROVIDING MEDICAL ADVICE ON CRITICAL ILLNESS INSURANCE CLAIMS AND TO UNDERWRITERS AND VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION CONSULTANTS. I WORK WITH OTHER DOCTORS AND WITH INSURANCE NURSE SPECIALISTS AND WE PROVIDE SUPPORT, COACHING AND PEER REVIEW TO EACH OTHER, BOTH INFORMALLY DAY TO DAY AND THROUGH REGULAR MEETINGS. THE UNDERSTANDING AND INSIGHTS THAT MY EXPERIENCE IN FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT HAS GIVEN ME WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY USEFUL WHEN I WAS A GP.

Nigel Dear - Medical Advisor at an Insurance/Employee Benefits Provider