



Living Well North Tyneside

Supporting Health and Wellbeing

On 14 May 2025, we celebrate **National Operating Department Practitioner (ODP) Day**, a day dedicated to recognising the vital role of ODPs in our healthcare system. This year is particularly special as it marks the **80th anniversary** of the ODP profession. The theme for 2025 is “Operating Department Practitioners: Committed to Care, Committed to Safety”, highlighting the unwavering dedication of ODPs to patient care and safety.

What is an ODP?

Operating Department Practitioners are highly skilled healthcare professionals who play a crucial role in the perioperative care of patients. They work alongside surgeons, anaesthetists, and nurses to ensure that operations run smoothly and safely. ODPs are involved in three main phases of perioperative care: anaesthetics, surgery (scrub), and recovery.

A Brief History

The ODP profession has evolved significantly over the past 80 years. Initially known as Operating Department Assistants, the role has expanded and professionalised, with ODPs now recognised as Allied Health Professionals. Since 2004, they have been regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), ensuring high standards of practice and patient care.

Celebrating National ODP Day

National ODP Day is an opportunity to:

- **Raise awareness:** Educate the public and healthcare colleagues about the critical role ODPs play in patient care.
- **Recognise contributions:** Acknowledge the dedication and hard work of ODPs in various healthcare settings.
- **Inspire future practitioners:** Encourage individuals to consider a rewarding career as an ODP.

How to Get Involved

- **Share stories:** Use social media to highlight the experiences and achievements of ODPs using hashtags like **#ODPDay** and **#ODP80Years**.
- **Host events:** Organise informational sessions, workshops, or open days to showcase the ODP role.
- **Educational outreach:** Visit schools or community groups to talk about careers in perioperative care.

Final Thoughts

ODPs are the unsung heroes of the operating theatre, ensuring patient safety and comfort throughout surgical procedures. As we celebrate the 80th anniversary of this vital profession, let's take a moment to appreciate the dedication, skill, and compassion that ODPs bring to healthcare every day.

Related Links

- [College of Operating Department Practitioners \(CODP\)](#)
- [Association for Perioperative Practice \(AfPP\)](#)
- [Health and Care Professions Council \(HCPC\)](#)



