

The role of a Pharmacist Advanced Clinical Practitioner (ACP) within OPAT

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Background

- District General Hospital
- Discharging patients on IV antibiotics for many years without the oversight of an OPAT team
 - Mainly orthopaedic patients



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Context

- Antimicrobial pharmacist project managed the introduction of an OPAT team in line with national good practice guidelines
- Under the clinical lead of a part-time Infectious Disease Consultant



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Improvement issue

- Sept 2015 - 4 patients on IVs
- March 2016 had 11 new patients on IVs and 20 on the service
- Planned reviews on days consultant available
- Growth of service meant reviews needed on days consultant not available
- No more consultant hours available



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Process

- Pharmacist already an independent prescriber
 - good experience advising on treatment of infection
- ↑ in number and complexity of patients = more extensive diagnostic and clinical skills
- Pharmacist undertook formal Advanced Practice Masters course



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What is Advanced Clinical Practice?

- Delivered by experienced, registered healthcare professionals
- Level of practice characterised by:
 - high level of autonomy
 - complex decision making skills
- Masters level education programme which includes 4 Pillars of :
 - clinical practice, education, research and management & leadership
- Demonstration of core and area specific clinical competence



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4 Pillars of Advanced Practice



“Advanced Clinical Practice embodies the ability to manage complete clinical care in partnership with patients/ carers.

It includes the analysis and synthesis of complex problems across a range of settings, enabling innovative solutions to enhance patient experience and improve outcomes.”

Health Education England



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Improvement Strategy

- Gradual ↑ in number of patients ACP pharmacist saw independently
 - as ↑ confidence and competence
- Weekly consultant led MDT ensuring consultant has regular input into all patients
- Allowed ↑ in patient numbers within limited consultant time



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Results

- ↑ in patient numbers whilst maintaining excellent clinical outcomes without a significant increase in consultant time
- Patient tailored plans taking into account allergy status, renal function and drug interactions created utilising the pharmacist's core skills



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Clinical Outcomes

	Sept 15- Aug 16 (year 1)	Sept 16 – Aug 17 (year 2)
% of patients meeting intended clinical outcome	84.30%	94.41%
Readmission rate	13.48%	7.26%
Readmissions for OPAT related issues	11.23%	4.52%
% of patients with the right line	81.50%	97.77%



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Future Steps

- As the service continues to grow the need for traditional medical assessments also needs to grow
- Decision made that OPAT nurse would also train as ACP
- Allows all 3 senior team members to undertake clinical assessments and make management plans
- Allows for further growth and development creating a resilient service for the future



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References

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