Advanced Nursing Practice in Acute Medicine

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Session Aims

• Brief description of Advanced Practice
• Consider the potential for Advanced Practice in Acute Medicine
• Evaluating Advanced Practice in Acute Medicine
• Consider continuing professional development. Should there be a standard CPD framework?
What is an Advanced Practitioner?

Many definitions but key criteria include:

• Autonomous practitioner
• Experienced and knowledgeable
• Leader
• Researcher
• Expert in case management
• Educated to Masters level
ANP needs to have the ability to....

- Take a comprehensive history from patients with undifferentiated diagnosis
- Carry out physical examinations
- Undertake and interpret relevant investigations
- Make a diagnosis
- Decide on and carry out treatment, including the prescribing of medicines
- Provide skilled and competent care
- Work independently
What is an ANP in Acute Medicine?

(Advanced Practice Toolkit 2010)
What is Acute Medicine?

Concerned with assessment, diagnosis and early management of acute medical illness

- Life-threatening medical emergencies
- Initial treatment (up to 72 hours)
- Short stay
- Ambulatory care
- Signposting function
- Strong clinical governance role
How can this role be utilised in Acute Medicine?
Primary Assessment of Acute Medical Patients – Sift and Sort

- ABCDE approach
- Initiate relevant investigations
- Direct patients towards relevant intervention – AMC, AMU high dependency area, AMU, acute physicians (may be able to go home)
- Co-ordination and management of referrals
Diagnostic Clinician

- Formal ‘clerking’ role
- Clinical history, examination, diagnosis, management plan, prescription
- Work alongside medical staff and present cases directly to the consultant
- Any patient (not just the easy ones!)
Managing Critically Unwell Patients

- Ensure appropriate monitoring
- Relevant interventions
- Develop and utilise relevant care bundles
- Liaison with ITU/HDU
- Liaison with specialty teams
- Support for junior nurses
Where will you find us?

- ED Resuscitation area
- AMU
- Acute medicine clinic
- Short stay ward
- Ambulatory care
- Out of hours support
How does Advanced Practice Benefit Nursing in AMU?

- Interpreter to bridge the Dr – nurse gap
- Development of clinical nursing standards which ensure safety
- Provide clinical support and assistance for critically ill patients
- Education programme for acute medicine nurses
- Audit and evaluation of practice
- Strategic planning role
- Clinical role model
Main Advantages

• Permanent member of senior staff
• Provides service delivery element
• Familiar with all aspects of the department
• Utilises and promotes trust guidelines
• knows the system and the pitfalls
• Provides consistency among a changing workforce
• Provides a clinical career pathway for nurses
Evaluating the Role

- Additional revenue from clinic consultations
- Number of consultations
- Waiting time to initial assessment
- Clinical incident data
- Mortality data
- Infection rates
- Readmission rates
- Staff turnover/satisfaction
- Patient feedback
- Quality of documentation
- Accuracy of diagnosis and plan
How can the ANP role be sustained in Acute Medicine?
Continuing Professional Development for ANP’s

According to the Advanced Practice Toolkit 2010, CPD must address the following areas:

- **Education**
- **Research**
- **Clinical**
- **Management/Leadership**
Next Steps

- Canvas acute medicine units via SAM
- Establish how many have or are considering advanced practice roles
- Scope the range of ANP roles and find out what they do - benchmarking
- Establish whether governance arrangements for ANP roles have been developed
- Discuss with AANPE
- Source any existing CPD framework that could be used as a template
Nursing has come a long way.....
Lets hope that advanced practice roles help it to continue developing.....
Thank you for listening.
Any questions or comments?