

JOB DESCRIPTION

1. JOB IDENTIFICATION

Job Title: Specialist Nurse (Band 6) OPAT

Responsible to: Lead Clinical Nurse Specialist (Band 7) OPAT

Department(s): Out-patient and Home Parenteral Antibiotic Team

Directorate: Acute Medicine

Operating Division: Medical and Associated Services Division LUHD

Job Reference: 087652

No of Job Holders: 3

Last Update:

2. JOB PURPOSE

To undertake the role of the specialist nurse, utilising specialist clinical knowledge to inform decision making and clinical judgment. To provide specialist advice to the multidisciplinary team in relation to the management of patient conditions through the assessment, treatment and review planning process in partnership with the patient / carer.

Provide specialist advice to healthcare professionals, other agencies, carers, clients and relatives.

Support the development of the service to improve practice and work collaboratively across healthcare boundaries, implementing and evaluating evidence based standards, guidelines and policies.

3. DIMENSIONS

The OPAT nurse specialist is an integral part member of the OPAT team working as an autonomous practitioner and is responsible for ensuring a high standard of care to a defined patient is delivered

The nurse provides clinical care with a specialised, designated clinical service with a complex caseload incorporating patient assessment, treatment and discharge from care.

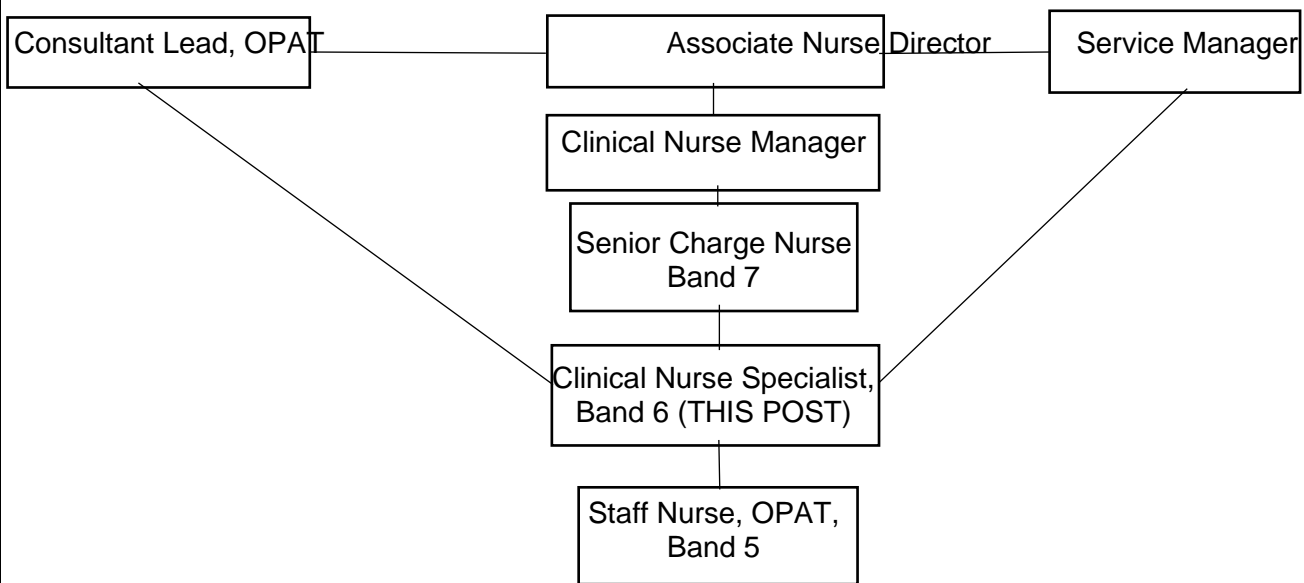
The nurses carry continuous responsibility for the assessment of care needs, the development, implementation and evaluation of programmes of care and the setting on standards.

Competently perform the necessary technical / physical aspects of care for this defined patient.

The individual is expected to motivate staff to provide high standards of care and acting as a role model will provide expert professional and clinical care advice to clients, carers and multidisciplinary teams. This will include advice and clinical support to district nurses who may be delivering IV antibiotics on behalf of OPAT in the patient's home.

The postholder is employed within NHS Lothian and there may be a requirement to work flexibly across Lothian to meet service demands.

4. ORGANISATIONAL POSITION



5. ROLE OF DEPARTMENT

- The Outpatient Parenteral Antibiotic Therapy (OPAT) service provides appropriate admission avoidance and early and supported discharge to patients who require intravenous antibiotics. Target areas are Accident and Emergency, General Practitioners, all wards and out-patient clinics within LUHD. Service seven days per week including all public holidays.
- To provide a high quality, safe and supportive environment in order to care for patients within RIDU/OPAT service, meeting the identified physical and psychosocial needs.

6. KEY RESULT AREAS

Clinical Practice

1. Responsible for providing specialist advice in relation to patient conditions and supporting the development of specialist care plan / package through assessment to meet the physical and psychological needs of the patient.
2. Participate in policy development through attending national / specialist groups, which facilitate networking and sharing best practice through the provision of specialist professional advice.

3. May initiate medication prescribing, administration and management in line with Patient Group Directive's or Prescribing as required for specialist role and in line with prescribing competence.
4. Apply principles of epidemiology and demography in clinical practice recognising risks, patterns of disease and work collaboratively with a variety of stakeholders to develop health promotion strategies and reduce health inequalities.
5. To undertake risk assessment (including patient behaviours and working environment) and incident management within clinical area including implementation of action plans and associated learning to ensure ongoing compliance with related legislation and guidelines, including Health and Safety at Work Act and NHS Lothian Health and Safety policy and reporting systems, to safeguard patients, visitors and staff.

Clinical Leadership

6. Provide clinical leadership in relation to the management of patient condition working at specialist practice level to provide mentoring, supervision and clinical advice where required to the multidisciplinary team.
7. Develop effective partnerships and positive working relationships with a variety of internal and external agencies in order to support seamless care provision across all agencies.
8. Participate in business continuity, workforce planning and skills profiling to ensure the targeting of resources to meet the needs of the team, individuals and families.
9. Participate in the appraisal process and Personal Development Plan Review in line with the Knowledge and Skills Framework. Support management of performance issues for area of responsibility. Provide and participate in clinical and peer supervision.
10. Participate in the development of local procedures and protocols ensuring compliance with National legislation and NHS Lothian policies and identify opportunities for the continuous development of service.
11. To support NHS Lothian's values of quality, teamwork, care and compassion, dignity and respect, and openness, honesty and responsibility through the application of appropriate behaviours and attitudes.

Practice Development and Facilitated Learning

12. For area of expertise provide specialist advice and teaching to the multidisciplinary team. May work in collaboration with education providers and other key stakeholders to ensure staff competency is achieved and maintained.

Research and Development

13. May participate in research and undertake clinical audit to support own and the team's best practice which is research and evidence based leading to continuous improvement in care. Disseminate findings as appropriate to influence best practice.

7a. EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY

The following are examples of equipment which will be used when undertaking the role:

This list is not exhaustive:

Digital thermometers, sats monitors, blood glucose monitors, portable ECG machines therapeutic mattresses and beds.

The postholder will be expected to be responsible and knowledgeable in the safe use of all clinical and non-clinical equipment used within the area ensuring this is checked and maintained and where problem are identified these resolved so that all equipment is fit for purpose.

Note: New equipment may be introduced as the organisation and technology develops, however training will be provided.

7b. SYSTEMS

The following are examples of systems which will be used when undertaking the role:

To maintain accurate and up to date clinical records complying with patient confidentiality and provide data for core surveillance

To be responsible for recording all activity/contact on appropriate local system

To update and maintain a range of information databases

Responsible for ordering supplies e.g. supplies and equipment using ordering systems

To be proficient in the use of IT systems - internet/intranet including use of email

Risk assessments

Note: New systems may be introduced as the organisation and technology develops, however training will be provided.

8. ASSIGNMENT AND REVIEW OF WORK

Works within occupational, national and local policies and guidelines.

Will have a Professional Personal Development Plan including an assessment of clinical competence which will be reviewed annually by the responsible line manager.

Professional nursing advice may be provided by the Chief Nurse/Advanced Nurse Practitioners.

The post is self directed, organising own workload in relation to specialist caseload to meet the demands of the service.

The clinical workload is generated through various referral protocols of multidisciplinary teams in line with legislation and performance indicators set by the Scottish Government Health Department

9. DECISIONS AND JUDGEMENTS

Makes autonomous clinical decisions in relation to patient assessment, care planning and review within area of specialty.

Agree referral protocols, undertake risk assessments and using specialist clinical reasoning skills, make further referrals to Clinicians when it is identified that further clinical intervention is required.

Uses own initiative and acts independently within the boundaries of own knowledge and Skills.

Participate in the appraisal process through Personal Development Planning and review in line with the Knowledge and Skills Framework.

10. MOST CHALLENGING/DIFFICULT PARTS OF THE JOB

Continued promotion of the specialist role and challenging the boundaries of the current parameters of practice.

11. COMMUNICATIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS

Communicates sensitive, complex clinical condition related information to patients, relatives and carers in relation to specialist area.

Communicate verbally and in writing to members of the multidisciplinary team - members of Primary and Secondary Health Care Teams, Social Care; statutory and non-statutory services with the ability to express professional views within group settings and support client advocacy.

In addition to the above other contact falls into the following main categories in relation to healthcare, staffing and service issues:

The patient, their relatives and the multidisciplinary team involved in the provision of care

Nursing staff regarding patient care, allocation of work, workload issues

Partnership, Trade Union and Professional Organisation representatives in relation to service and staffing issues

Acts as a patient /staff advocate through the application of ethical, legal and professional knowledge and skills.

12. PHYSICAL, MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEMANDS OF THE JOB

This section may vary depending on clinical area. Examples may include:

Physical Skills:

Administer medicines, injections, syringe drivers, intravenous infusions and blood transfusions.

Administer enteral tube feeding.

Insert urinary catheters.

Apply wound dressings.

Manual handling techniques.

Keyboard skills.

Physical Demands:

Physical manual handling of patient, patient movement with use of mechanical aides

Push wheelchairs and other mobile equipment.

Stand/walk for the majority of shift.

Mental Demands:

Concentration is required at all times when caring for patients and undertaking clinical decision making.

Maintenance of precise and accurate records and report writing.

Frequent interruptions from patients / relatives / team members.

Concentration required when observing patient behaviours which may be unpredictable

Emotional Demands:

Communicating with distressed / anxious / worried patients and relatives.

Caring for patients and relatives following receipt of bad news and supporting them in identifying realistic expectations in relation to clinical conditions.

Communicating with and caring for patients who have reduced understanding and insight due to cognitive impairments.

Caring for the terminally ill.

Motivating and supporting junior staff / colleagues in the work environment.

Working Conditions:

Exposure to body fluids.

Potential exposure to verbal and physical aggression from patients and relatives / other visitors.

Exposure to infections and temperature variations.

13. KNOWLEDGE, TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED TO DO THE JOB

Registered nurse

Evidence of significant post registration professional practice experience to undertake and fulfill the key areas for this post e.g. - postgraduate courses in clinical specialty

Prescribing experience relevant to specialist role eg nurse prescribing (v100/v150) or independent supplementary prescribing (v300)

Evidence of management, education and training

Effective listening and interpersonal skills

Time management skills/ability to prioritise workload

Evidence of research /audit experience

Evidence of effective problem solving skills

Competent in standard IT packages e.g. Microsoft Word & Excel

14. JOB DESCRIPTION AGREEMENT

A separate job description will need to be signed off by each job holder to whom the job description applies.

Job Holder's Signature:

Date:

Head of Department Signature:

Date: