

# CLINICAL FELLOW PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

**12 month fixed term contract from August 2024**

# 3 days per week (6 sessions) with banding for full time on call

**DESCRIPTION OF POST**

**Summary of Post**

The post holder will become part of an innovative and dynamic multidisciplinary team seeking to deliver high standards of inpatient specialist palliative care, in addition to developing more responsive community based pathways both in and out of hours. This is an excellent opportunity for applicants interested in developing a career in Palliative Medicine. Further details of the post are provided in Section 5 below.

1. **Introduction**

NHS Tayside has a Tayside-wide Specialist Palliative Care Service which supports patients and staff members in all health care settings including patients’ homes, nursing homes, community hospitals, two specialist palliative care units and two university teaching hospitals.

This post represents an exciting opportunity to work across inpatient and community settings as part of a dynamic multidisciplinary team.

**2. Background**

Tayside is a region in Eastern Scotland and is conveniently situated for travel to the three other large cities in Scotland, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow. London is accessible by rail within six hours, and by air in just over one hour. The area is strikingly beautiful, with good and relatively inexpensive housing in either a rural or a city environment. The two major conurbations in the region are Dundee and Perth. The area provides excellent access to hill walking, water sports, and golfing, as well as providing for cultural interests via several local professional repertory theatres and regular concerts are provided by visiting national orchestras.

**Tayside Palliative Care Service**

NHS Tayside serves a population of approximately 400,000 people. It is a large geographical area with its population scattered over an area of approximately 100 miles by 80 miles. This in itself presents an exciting challenge in offering access to specialist palliative care to those at home, in hospitals, in community hospitals in urban or rural areas in Tayside. There are approximately 1,200 deaths from cancer per year. The Tayside Palliative Care Service aims to provide high quality care appropriate to location (home, hospice, nursing home or hospital) and level of complexity. Education and telephone advice for all health professionals are core activities of the service. The Tayside Palliative Care Service is hosted within the Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership but operates across four main clinical hubs: Angus Palliative Care Service, Roxburghe House & Dundee Palliative Care Service, Ninewells Palliative Care Service and Cornhill Macmillan Centre & Perth and Kinross Palliative Care Service. The Tayside Palliative Care Service works across each of these clinical centres as a unified team and provides specialist palliative care support across Tayside out of hours.

### Specialist Palliative Care in Dundee

**Roxburghe House, Dundee**

Roxburghe House is a 18-bed purpose built NHS specialist palliative care unit in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Jedburgh Road, Dundee. It serves the populations of Dundee and Angus. It has a day care centre, outpatient clinics and an education centre. It is situated in the west of the city less than one mile from Ninewells Hospital and Medical School. Roxburghe House has an experienced multidisciplinary team consisting of a clinical coordinator, medical staff (described in detail later), nursing staff, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, pharmacist, bereavement support worker, volunteer manager, complementary therapies coordinator, chaplain and service manager. The Community Macmillan Nursing Team is based in Roxburghe House and is aligned to Primary Healthcare Teams in the Dundee area.

**Ninewells Palliative Care Service**

The Ninewells Palliative Care Service consists of an advisory service and a unique 2 bed Acute Palliative Care in-patient Unit. Ninewells is a large University teaching hospital, which includes all main specialties. It also hosts the Regional Cancer Centre, the Medical School and the Postgraduate Centre. It also contains new Cancer Research Facilities of the University of Dundee. Tayside also benefits from the presence of the Maggie’s Centre in the grounds of Ninewells Hospital which provides a wide range of support for patients with cancer.

### Specialist Palliative Care in Perth & Kinross

**Cornhill Macmillan Centre**

Cornhill Macmillan Centre is a 10 bed purpose built NHS specialist palliative care unit in the grounds of Perth Royal Infirmary, Taymount Terrace, Perth. It has day care and clinic facilities. It has an experienced Multidisciplinary Team consisting of a service manager, medical staff (described in detail later), nursing staff, one advanced nurse practitioner, occupational therapy, physiotherapist, pharmacist, social worker, counselor, complementary therapies and chaplain. The team is closely linked with the Macmillan Nursing Service for both Perth and Kinross communities and Cornhill houses the out of hours district nursing service.

**Perth Royal Infirmary Palliative Care Service**

Perth Royal Infirmary is a University teaching hospital located approximately one mile from the city centre. It provides a range of out-patient and in-patient services including acute admissions, general surgery and medicine, medicine for the elderly and on-site chemotherapy and dialysis. The palliative care team based in Cornhill provide specialist palliative care to patients in Perth Royal Infirmary.

1. **Specialist Palliative Care in Angus**

The Angus Palliative Care Service provides a community-based service through an integrated model comprising four outpatient clinics per week (Stracathro, Forfar and Arbroath), day care services (Stracathro Forfar and Arbroath), Macmillan nurse services and specialist support of 3 community hospitals, including a 4 bed purpose built palliative care unit. There is a recently established monthly multidisciplinary clinic for patients with Motor Neurone Disease.

**3. Current Issues and Developments**

The overarching aim is to deliver high quality palliative care across Tayside, whether at home, in hospital, in an urban or rural location. In addition to vibrant service provision of core palliative care there are a number of innovative developments taking place across the region:

1. **Integrated Supportive Care models for non-cancer and cancer**

The Tayside team are developing further integrated supportive care models between palliative care and other cancer and non-cancer services: These will extend to additional specialties beyond existing models for renal, vascular and interstitial lung disease. Infrastructure is evolving to support this.

1. **Non-cancer services**
   * **Renal Supportive Care Service.** This integrated service provides supportive care for patients with renal failure (patients on dialysis and patients managed conservatively) through a collaborative service model with the NHS Tayside renal team. Dr Claire Douglas provides palliative medicine leadership for this service and works alongside two clinical nurse specialists in renal supportive care and the wider renal MDT.
   * **Interstitial Lung Disease** – This is an integrated service based on a similar model to the renal supportive care model. It is led by Dr Claire Douglas who works alongside an ILD specialist nurse, respiratory consultant and the wider respiratory MDT.
   * **Heart Failure** – there is regular attendance at the heart failure MDT and development of integrated clinical models are currently being explored, led by Dr Fiona McFatter.
   * **Multiple Sclerosis** – Dr Ruth Isherwood is currently collaborating with colleagues in neurology to support patients with advanced MS and to develop a service that better meets patient needs
   * **Motor Neurone Disease**: An established integrated service between neurology and palliative care is already established in Angus. Current work is occurring with stakeholders with the aim of creating opportunities for earlier intervention and support of patients with MND for patients throughout Tayside.
2. **A Macmillan Tayside Managed Care Network (MCN) for Palliative and End of Life Care** was launched in October 2017 and offers an exciting opportunity to build a structured model of collaborative and integrated working across Tayside. The MCN has diverse representation from a range of stakeholders committed to the delivery of high quality palliative care in Tayside, including health, social care, the University of Dundee and third sector. Subgroups have been established and will progress work streams including Research/Quality Improvement, End of Life Care, Education and Audit/Data Collection. (http://www.ahspartnership.org.uk/ahsp/taypeolc)
3. **Acute Palliative Care Unit** and the Palliative Care Service in Ninewells University Teaching Hospital.
4. **Undergraduate teaching in palliative medicine.** The service has the allocation of 4 Consultant ACT sessions (Addition Cost of Teaching). Undergraduate teaching is being developed in line with the proposed national curriculum for palliative care. The teaching programme will involve lectures, small group work, clinical placements and web based teaching.
5. **A Master in Public Health (Palliative Care Research)** has been developed in conjunction with the Department of Public Health, The University of Dundee.

[http://www.dundee.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/palliative\_care\_research.htm](#)

1. **Research/Quality Improvement**

There is a commitment and enthusiasm for palliative care research in Tayside which will be harnessed and developed through the MCN Research/QI Subgroup. Recent projects have related to the patient dignity question, acute hospital care, unscheduled care, supportive renal care and a multicentre trial of paracetamol versus placebo in conjunction with strong opioids for cancer related pain. A partnership project with Macmillan Cancer Care and the SPPC through the “Building on the Best – Scotland” project will evaluate current approaches to shared decision making from a person centred perspective. NHS Tayside is also currently undertaking QI work with HIS as part of the strategic framework for PEOLC in a project aiming to identify and coordinate supportive and end of life care for care home residents with a dementia.

**4. Current Substantive Palliative Medicine Staff in Tayside**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Consultants **ConConsuPalliativeMedicine**Consultants | Elinor Brabin | Roxburghe House and Dundee |
|  | Katharine Thompson | Roxburghe House and Angus |
|  | Kathryn Lambert | Roxburghe House and Dundee |
|  | Deans Buchanan | Ninewells Palliative Care Service |
|  | Fiona McFatter | Ninewells Palliative Care Service |
|  | Claire Douglas | Cornhill and Perth & Kinross |
|  | Ruth Isherwood | Cornhill and Perth & Kinross |
|  |  |  |
| Specialty Doctors | Joanna Beattie | Cornhill and Perth & Kinross |
|  | Rebecca Cordner | Cornhill and Perth & Kinross |
|  | Jemma Munro | Ninewells Palliative Care Service |
|  | Fiona Roberston | Ninewells Palliative Care Service |
|  | Morven Hislop | Angus Palliative Care Service |
|  | Yasmin Flatt | Roxburghe House and Dundee |
|  | Phil Dickson | Roxburghe House and Dundee |
|  |  |  |
| Clinical Fellow | Vacant post | Roxburghe House and Dundee |
|  |  |  |
| Specialty | Alana Brown Kerr | Tayside |
| Trainees (STr) | Mairi Finlay | Tayside |
|  | Kirsty Douglas | Tayside |
|  | Francesca Mastaglio | Tayside |
|  |  |  |
| Foundation | 4 monthly rotations | Roxburghe House x 2 FY1s  Cornhill x1 FY2 |
| trainees |  | Cornhill FY2 |
|  |  |  |
| GP Trainees | 3 or 6 monthly rotations | 1x GPST Cornhill, 1xGPST Roxburghe  1X GPST Roxburghe |
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**5. The Post**

i) **Position**:

Six session (3 days per week) 12 month Fixed Term Clinical Fellow in Palliative Medicine

With banding for full time on call

ii) **Responsible to**:

Dr Katharine Thompson (Clinical Lead for Palliative Medicine)

Dr James Cotton (Medical Director, NHS Tayside)

Vicky Irons (Chief Officer Dundee Health & Social Care Partnership)

iii) **Duties of the Posts:** This post will be based in Roxburghe House for three days per week but with flexibility to work across sites within the Tayside Specialist Palliative Care Service. It will mainly involve clinical care of in-patients in Roxburghe House as part of an experienced multidisciplinary team. The post holder will undertake ward rounds, review admissions and be closely involved in discussions/care planning with patients and their families.  There may be opportunities to work alongside the community palliative care team, as well as participate in undergraduate and post graduate teaching programmes.  The post holder will be joining an established medical team in Roxburghe House comprising three Palliative Medicine Consultants, two specialty doctors, two FY1s, a GP trainee and a rotating specialty trainee in Palliative Medicine.  The on-call component is to support a new, stand alone Palliative Medicine rota for Tayside. On call will be approximately 1 in 7 (weekends and weeknights), providing ‘2nd’ on call advice across Tayside. This will mainly be phone advice on weeknights, but presence in Roxburghe House and Ninewells Hospital is expected at weekends to support complex ward reviews and emergency admissions. ‘1st’ on call is the Royal Victoria Hospital FY2 or GPST in Roxburghe House, and Hospital at Night in Cornhill Macmillan Unit. An on-call consultant in Palliative Medicine will be available for support and provide presence on various sites as needed.

**An example of a weekly timetable is given below. *The working days and programmed activities are to be confirmed and are subject to change.***

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Roxburghe House Inpatient Unit** | **AM** | **PM** |
| **Monday** | Ward round | Ward admissions/reviews Family meetings |
| **Tuesday** | Ward round  Community bleep holder | Ward admissions/reviews or Symptom Control Clinic |
| **Thursday** | SPA/teaching/clinical admin | Ward MDT and admissions |

vi) **Continuing Professional Development**

The post holder will be expected to participate in continuing medical education as advised by the medical Royal Colleges. There is a regular programme of virtual clinical update sessions and multidisciplinary education events. There is a weekly ‘Grand Round’ in Ninewells Hospital.

vii) **Research**

The person appointed may participate in research projects across the Tayside Palliative Care Service. There would be opportunities to participate in the Master of Public Health (Palliative Care Research) course and supervision of clinical research projects. The TayPEOLC MCN has an active research group.

viii) **Quality Issues.** The post holders will be expected to contribute to the setting and monitoring of quality standards within the services.

ix) **Audit and Clinical Effectiveness**

The post holders will be expected to contribute to the audit programme within the services.

x) **Staff Training and Teaching**

The post holders will be expected to support junior doctors in training who may be attached to the services and contribute to the teaching of undergraduates and postgraduates. The post holder will be expected to contribute to the varied education provisions within Tayside.

xi) **Management**

The post holders will be expected to work with the service managers and professional colleagues to ensure the efficient and effective running of the Palliative Care Service.

xii) **Personal Development**

The Board has a policy in operation helping personnel develop their full potential. There is a Tayside scheme for annual appraisal of medical staff, which contributes to revalidation.

xiii) **Cover for holidays**

So far as is consistent with the proper discharge of the above duties the post holder undertakes to deputise from time to time for absent colleagues. The post holder undertakes, exceptionally, to perform additional duties in occasional circumstances. The post holder undertakes, exceptionally to be available for such irregular commitments outside normally rostered duties as are essential for continuity of patient care. In such cases post holders may be required to move between Dundee, Perth and Angus.

**8. Responsibility for Record Management**

All records created in the course of business of NHS Tayside are corporate records and are public records under the terms of Public Records (Scotland) Act 1937. This includes email messages and other electronic records. It is your responsibility to ensure that you keep appropriate records of your work in NHS Tayside and manage those records in keeping with the NHS Tayside Records Management Policy and with any guidance produced by NHS Tayside specific to your employment.

**9. Further Information and Applications**

Should you wish to arrange a visit or to have further information please contact:

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Email Katharine.thompson@nhs.scot

and/or

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