# NHS FORTH VALLEY



# JOB DESCRIPTION

**1. JOB DETAILS**

**Job Title: Senior Critical Care Practitioner**

**Responsible to: Team Leader / Charge Nurse**

**Department(s): Critical Care**

**Job Holder Reference: A-N-CF-055**

**2. JOB PURPOSE**

The post holder will work as part of the MDT and taking charge of the department when required will assess, plan and implement highly specialised programmes of care for critically ill (level 2/3) patients.

**3. ORGANISATIONAL POSITION**

## General Manager

Nurse Manager

Clinical Coordinator

Charge Nurse

## Nursing Team Leader

## Senior Critical Care Practitioner

## Critical Care Practitioner

Nursing Auxiliary

**ROLE OF DEPARTMENT**

**SEE APPENDIX**

1. **DIMENSIONS**

* To provide care for designated critically ill patients within the critical care department
* Supervise qualified nursing staff in the delivery of patient care
* The post holder will provide an advanced level of knowledge and expertise to lead the nursing team
* Deliver education and clinical support to junior critical care practitioners and trainees
* Manage the department on a daily basis in collaboration with the senior charge nurse and nursing team leaders

**5. KEY DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES**

* The post holder will be expected to take charge of the critical care unit encompassing high dependency/intensive care and cardiology patients
* When in charge will be responsible and accountable for the safe and efficient management of the department
* Expected to assume the responsibilities incumbent with management of the department, this includes dealing with issues such as ensuring adequate staffing levels and skill mix.
* Expected to have knowledge of and implement as necessary the guidelines and protocols for managing the following: health and safety issues, major emergency procedures and evacuation of the department
* To work autonomously to ensure the provision of evidence based care
* To assess care needs, implementation and evaluation of programmes of care and ensure that care is delivered in a safe, effective and timely manner
* To carry out patient risk assessments as appropriate
* To assist in the development and implementation of programmes of care maintaining a focus on best practice within available resources
* To lead and supervise qualified staff/students and locum staff who are providing care to patients and act as a source of clinical and professional expertise and advice
* To participate in multidisciplinary forums to provide holistic patient care
* To promote health education and provide information to patients and their carers
* To promote high standards of infection control
* To demonstrate and train nursing procedures to qualified staff/ students
* To participate in audit and research initiatives and promote research based nursing practice
* Participate and be competent in extended role after suitable education/supervision
* Assist in the implementation of qualifiedstaff appraisal/development programmes
* Ensuring adequate ward supplies are available.
* To be a mentor for qualified nursing staff.
* To be familiar with working practices in other departments and how to access their services

**Speciality and Role Specific Duties**

The post holder will direct the work of the daily team to provide care for patients requiring the following specialist care:

**ITU**

* Mechanical ventilation and protocol led weaning
* Patients with endotracheal tube insitu
* Management of the tracheostomised patient
* Endotracheal intubation and rapid sequence induction of anaesthesia
* Interpretation of arterial blood gas measurements
* Cardiac output monitoring
* Management of central venous and peripheral arterial pressure lines
* Management of inotrope and vasopressor therapy
* Management of renal replacement therapy
* Management of sedation to facilitate safe delivery of the above therapies.
* Level 2/3 patients during transfer to receiving hospitals and CT scan

**HDU**

* Management of central venous and peripheral arterial pressure lines
* Management of inotrope and vasopressor therapy
* Management of tracheostomised patient
* Management of patients requiring CPAP and high flow oxygen delivery therapy
* Specialised management of analgesia
* Care of patients with ET tubes
* Care of patients with oesophageal varices
* Care of chest drains

**6. SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT**

**Systems:**

* IT systems
* Telephone/communication system
* Patient care records

**Equipment:**

The post holder will frequently work with specialised equipment such as;

* Moving and handling equipment e.g. Hoists, patient slides, bath chairs, Pressure relieving mattresses, profile beds
* Respiratory equipment e.g. nebulisers, suction, oxygen cylinders, humidifiers
* Intravenous infusion devices e.g. Gemini
* Patient monitoring equipment e.g. Dynamap, Tympanic thermometers, ECG machine, Blood Glucose monitoring, Oxygen saturation monitors, Cardiac monitors
* Emergency Equipment e.g. Defibrillator, Resuscitation equipment
* Be familiar with the use, storage and maintenance of all equipment used within the clinical area of work
* Ventilator
* CPAP and high flow oxygen delivery equipment
* Cardiac output monitoring devices
* Haemofilter
* Invasive monitoring equipment
* Arterial blood gas analyser
* Specialised analgesia / sedation infusion devices
* Endotracheal intubation equipment
* Computerised ICU patient dependency and audit system
* Therapeutic Rotational Mattresses
* Specialised infusion device for thrombolysis

1. **ASSIGNMENT AND REVIEW OF WORK**

The post holder will frequently be expected to take charge of the Coronary Care and Intensive Care Unit as a whole (approximately 1 in 4 shifts). They will delegate/allocate work to the team in the absence of Team Leader/Charge Nurse. The post holder will have responsibility for managing the department workload, within professional guidelines and will supervise the care provided by the nursing team including agency nurses and students. Workload will be prioritised on a daily basis.

Areas of discretion and the typical judgements made in the course of the job are diverse and significant. The post holder will be expected to independently administer first line emergency drugs according to protocols and to instigate advanced life support including rhythm interpretation and defibrillation. They will be expected to instigate tests and act on the results for example by altering artificial ventilation and titrating drugs such as inotropes and sedation. The post holder will ensure correct staffing levels and adequate skill mix and advise/support junior medical staff. They will work in conjunction with senior medical staff to accept admissions to the unit and select those who it is appropriate to transfer.

The post holder is expected to work autonomously while carrying out management duties in the absence of Team Leader/Charge Nurse. The staff nurse will be responsible to the Team Leader / Charge Nurse for clinical guidance and professional management, work review and formal appraisal of performance.

The post holder will assign workload as required. The post holder will have responsibility for managing the department workload, within professional guidelines. Workload will be prioritised on a daily basis.

**8. COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKING RELATIONSHIPS**

The post holder will be expected to:

* Frequently communicate and liase with patients and relatives
* To motivate peers and junior members of staff and patients experiencing prolonged life threatening illness
* To train new members of staff and act as mentors/preceptors
* To empathise with those experiencing physical and psychological stress
* To communicate unpleasant news to patients and relatives
* To utilise counselling skills and provide reassurance to patients and their families
* To support those who are dying and their relatives
* To care for confused and/or aggressive patients
* Communicate to senior/specialist nurse patient condition and workload
* Communication with all members of MDT
* Communicate and liase with patients and relatives
* Be aware of how to access other departments within the Division e.g. Estates, Human Resources, Infection Control.
* Be aware of patient referral system to other professionals, internal and external to the organisation.
* Be aware of the communication systems within the Division.
* Maintain verbal and written communication systems within the Ward, unit and departments.
* Maintain a professional manner when dealing with patients, staff and relatives, ensuring patient confidentiality.
* Be aware of the diversity of culture, religion/individual communication needs.
* Maintain links with MDT and external agencies as appropriate

**9a. PHYSICAL DEMANDS OF THE JOB**

* Continual mobility required for the majority of the shift
* Assist with moving and handling of patients while ensuring Forth Valley moving and handling policies are adhered to
* Frequent moving of beds/furniture/equipment
* be able to respond speedily to emergency or unplanned situations
* Potential control and restraint of physically aggressive patients
* Exposure to body fluids, faeces, emptying bed pans/urinals, catheter bags (several times during a shift) on a daily basis und unpleasant smells
* Be appropriately trained to deal with verbally and physically aggressive patients recognising that this is unacceptable behaviour.

**9b. MENTAL/EMOTIONAL DEMANDS OF THE JOB**

* Highly frequent intense concentration required when dealing with level 2/3 patients
* Concentration required when dealing with medical instructions eg administering medicines, calculating drug dosages
* Ability to deal with several strands of complex information whilst being interrupted due to unpredictable workload eg telephone enquiries, responding to alarms, dealing with management issues
* Being prepared at all times to respond to life threatening situations and deal with disorientated/aggressive patients
* Constantly supporting patients and relatives through their episode of care
* Breaking bad news to patients and relatives
* Supporting patients and relatives who receive bad news.
* Acting as patients advocate when appropriate.
* Frequent exposure to dying patients and death
* Support and care of families where outcome is not as expected / planned causing distress and / or resentment
* Care for the terminally ill.
* Giving telephone advice to patients with concerns following treatment using clinical judgement as required to refer the patient appropriately.
* Unpredictable workload
* Frequent concentration required on a daily basis
* Supporting colleagues
* Caring for patients and relatives during organ donation

**10. KNOWLEDGE, TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED TO DO THE JOB**

* First Level Registered nurse
* Previous experience at band 5 level within a relevant area
* Able to demonstrate an awareness of evidence based practice in relation to nursing care
* Can demonstrate a forward thinking approach to care
* In service training e.g. staff induction, annual updates.
* Be familiar with Forth Valley Acute Operating Division policies.
* Basic IT skills.
* Evidence of ongoing professional development.
* Effective interpersonal and communication skills.
* ILS certificate
* ALS certificate desirable (CCU only)
* Post basic specialist qualification desirable

**11. JOB DESCRIPTION AGREEMENT**

**Job Holder’s Signature:**

**Date:**

**Head of Department Signature:**

**APPENDIX 1**