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The Role of the Advanced Nursing/Clinical Nurse Specialist in enhancing patient care

Michael van Orsouw RN MSc
Head of Nursing For Cardiovascular
Guys and St Thomas' NHS Trust



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History of Clinical Nurse Specialist in UK

- Sister Dora Pattinson 1832-1878 specialist in Treating industrial injuries
- By 1975 Role of the Macmillan nurse caring for palliative patients established
- By late 1970's pioneers Elizabeth Anionwu set up specialised sickle cell care



History Continued

- By the 1990's the CNS role was well established.
- Clinical nurse specialists in the UK provide complex services in line with the International Council of Nursing definition:
“registered nurse who has acquired the expert knowledge base, complex decision making skills and clinical competencies for expanded practice , the characteristics of which are shaped by the context and/or country in which s/he is credited to practice” (ICN 2002)
- Evaluation of the services are general positive and body of work demonstrates efficiency and return on investment (Leary 2021)

Guys and St Thomas' Cardiovascular Directorate Specialist nurses

- Over 40 clinical nurse specialist
- 1 consultant nurse for Cardiac valve (also leads service)
- Wide range of specialities
 - Cardiac pathway nurse supporting arrhythmia and chest pain services in accident emergency
 - Cardiac surgical ANP part of junior medical doctor rota
 - Nurse led varicose vein sclerotherapy
 - Exams patients, orders scan, perform surgical procedure, discharges patient

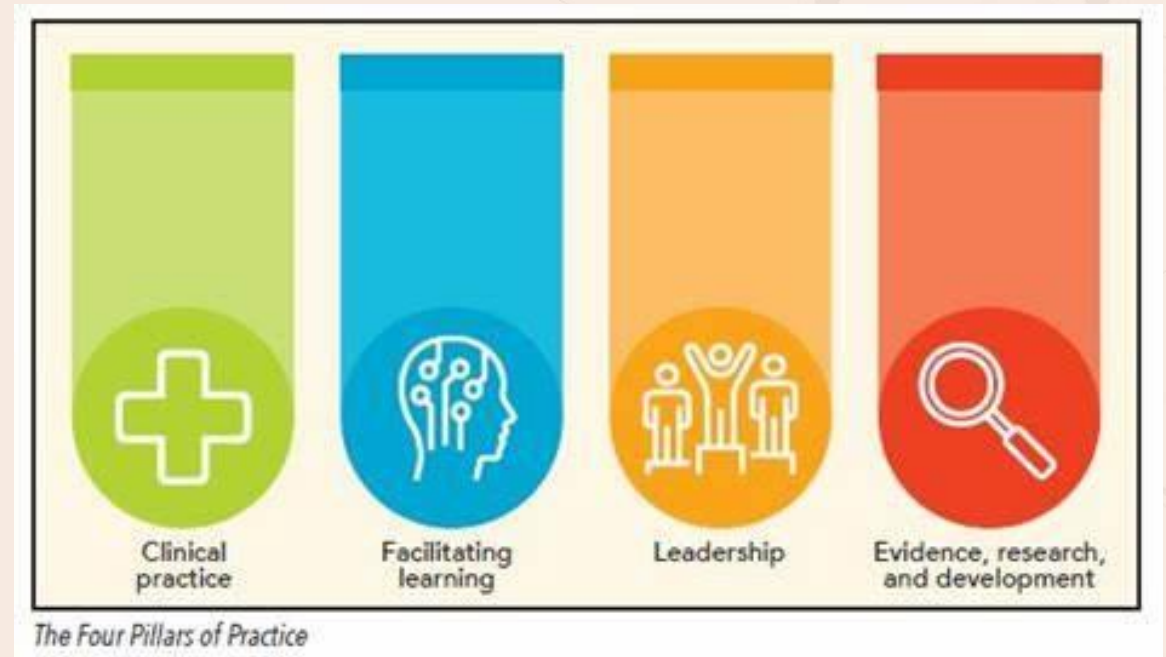


Challenges of advanced nursing practice in uk

- Definition of Clinical nurse specialists in UK are confusing (Leary 2021)
 - No regulatory or legal framework in the UK
 - Anyone in the UK can and do call themselves Clinical Nurse Specialist or Advanced Practitioners (Jones-Berry 2018)
 - Job titles bear no association to levels of practice (Leary et al, 2017)
 - Scope of Practice and educational levels vary
 - No national agreed competencies
 - Paid different rates of pay

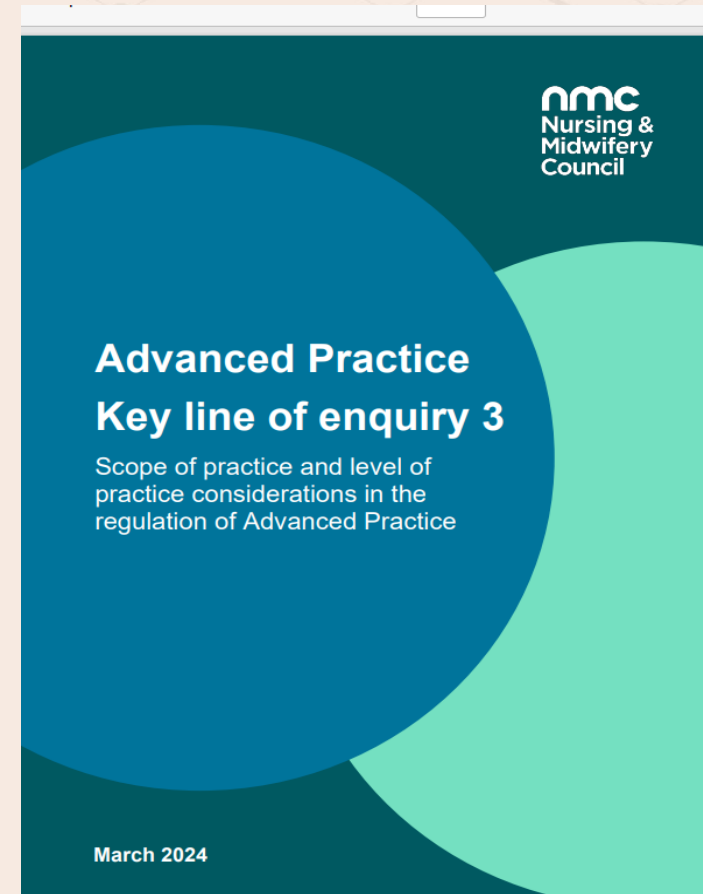
Health Education England Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) 2017

- Not from specific policy initiative but a way of addressing workforce issues
- Defined level of practise within clinical professions (Nursing, Pharmacy, paramedics etc.)
- Designed to transform and modernise care
- Educated to Masters level
- Built on four ACP pillars
- HEE is now developing core capability frameworks



Nursing and midwifery Council

- It has been recognised that lack of regulatory framework presents a patient safety risk
- Develop standards of proficiency for advanced practice
- Develop UK wide advanced practice principles framework with definition of advanced level practice
- Advanced level practice becomes part of the Code 2025/26



Conclusion

- Variations in practice, services without common frameworks and the lack of clarity of roles coupled with an increasing financial burden have often led to advanced nursing/clinical nurse specialist roles to be questioned
- It is to be hoped that national standards of proficiency and definitions of advanced nursing roles will enable more effective evaluation of the benefits that advanced nursing can provide.

References

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