

**[Service]**

**ADVANCED NURSE PRACTITIONER ROLE**

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

**[Version Number]**

**[Date]**

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### 1.0 Introduction

This guidance is to set out the role and remit of the Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) within the [Service Name].

This procedure is current from [date]

### 1.1 Definition of Advanced Nurse Practitioner

*“An Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) is an experience and highly educated Registered Nurse who manages the complete clinical care for their patient, not solely any specific condition. Advanced practice is a level of practice, rather than a type or speciality of practice.*

*ANPS are educated at Masters Level in advanced practice and are assessed as competent in this level of practice. As a clinical leader they have the freedom and authority to act and accept the responsibility and accountability for those actions. This level of practice is characterised by high level autonomous decision making, including assessment, diagnosis, treatment including prescribing, of patients with complex, multi-dimensional problems. Decisions are made using high level expert, knowledge and skills. This includes the authority to refer, admit and discharge within appropriate clinical areas.*

*Working as part of the multidisciplinary team ANPs can work in or across all clinical settings, dependent on their area of expertise.”*

(Scottish Government 2016)<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Scottish Government (2016) Transforming Nursing Roles: Developing Advanced Practice in Scotland. (CNO/SEND Meeting Paper Agenda Item 5, Edinburgh) 3 June

## 1.2 Core Competencies

In 2016 the Scottish Government identified the following as core clinical competencies for the ANP role:

**a) Comprehensive history taking**

**b) Clinical assessment**

- Carries out comprehensive clinical examination of the patient in their entirety, inclusive of:
  - Physical examination of all systems
  - Mental health assessment

**c) Differential diagnosis**

- Applies high level decision-making and assessment skills to formulate appropriate differential diagnoses based on synthesis of clinical findings. This takes account of managing clinical risk in dealing with undifferentiated client groups across the age spectrum.

**d) Investigations**

- Has the freedom and authority to request, where indicated using judgement and clinical reasoning, appropriate diagnostics tests / investigations based on differential diagnoses.
- Interprets and analyses previously ordered results of test/investigations and work collaboratively with other healthcare professionals when needed.
- Acts on the results to confirm diagnosis and thereby optimise treatment and management outcomes.

**e) Treatment**

- Formulates an action plan for the treatment of the patient, synthesising clinical information based on the patient's presentations, history, clinical assessment and findings from relevant investigations, using appropriate evidence based practice.
- Is an independent non medical prescriber
- Implements non-pharmacological related interventions/therapies, dependent on situation and technical requirements of care

**f) Admission, discharge and referral**

- Has the freedom and authority to admit and discharge from identified clinical areas, dependent on patient need at time of review. This includes the freedom and authority to refer to all appropriate health care professional groups and agencies, working collaboratively with them.

## **2.0 The purpose**

The purpose of an Advanced Nurse Practitioner within NHSGGC is to enhance existing medical/nursing provision through:

- The provision of clinical expertise through clinical assessment, decision making, formulating differential diagnosis and treatment planning in [description of where ANP service will be delivered]
- Requesting, performing and interpreting common screening and diagnostic tests, as per local guidelines, conducting appropriate follow up
- The provision of complete episodes of care for people with a wide variety and range of presenting problems and healthcare needs
- Acting within a leadership role in developing the role of the Advanced Nurse Practitioner and embedding this within existing services.
- [Add additional if appropriate]

The Advanced Nurse Practitioner will not have any managerial responsibility within the [service area].

The Advanced Nurse Practitioner will work within any existing service guidelines or referral processes.

## **3.0 Inclusion Criteria**

- [Add details of the patients the ANP service will see]
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## **3.1 Exclusion Criteria**

- [Add details of patients ANPs would not see]

## **4.0 Service Availability**

- The service will be available [add]

## 4.1 Making a Referral

- The service will receive referrals from:
  - [add]
- Referrals can be to:
  - [Add details including contact numbers/methods]

## 5.0 Referral to Other Services

- Where the Advanced Nurse Practitioner requires advise or guidance they will refer directly to [add details]
- The Advanced Nurse Practitioner will refer for diagnostic tests or to appropriate primary and secondary care services as per agreed existing protocols
- The Advanced Nurse Practitioner will refer to appropriate external agencies including:
  - [Add details including contact details]
- The Advanced Nurse practitioner will have the ability to admit to:
  - [Add details – if appropriate]
- NHS GGC will ensure that all essential pathways are in place to enable the Advanced Nurse Practitioner to complete episodes of care independently

## 6.0 Access to Clinical Information and Recording Clinical Contacts

The Advanced Nurse Practitioner requires access to appropriate medical information to assist the clinical examination, decision making process and subsequent treatment plan. Following assessment the Advanced Nurse Practitioner will prescribe appropriate treatments and medication taking in to account any agreed national or local formularies and protocols.

## 7.0 Supervision and Professional Development

All Registered Nurses are bound by '*The Code*' issued by the Nursing & Midwifery Council<sup>2</sup> and as such are required to:

- Recognise and Preserve safety
  - Work only within the limits of their individual competence
- Practice Effectively

- Maintain the knowledge and skills needed for safe and effective practice

As per NHS GG&C Partnership Nurse Clinical Supervision Policy<sup>3</sup> a formal structured approach to clinical supervision supports:

- Delivery of safe and effective health care
- Personal, professional and service development
- A culture of openness and continuous improvement

The Advanced Nurse Practitioner will have an identified professional and clinical supervisor and will work closely with him/her/them to address any gaps in knowledge and to implement and develop the service. This will be supported by a Training Needs Analysis and agreed action plan. ANPs will have a job plan and it will include at least 1 supporting Professional Activity (SPA) session per week (pro rata) for CPD and other supporting professional activities such as education, audit and research, and guideline/policy development.

The Advanced Practitioner will report directly to [add details] or [add details] in their absence, the Team leader. In addition, peer support will be available from an experienced Advanced Nurse Practitioner [add details].

## **8.0 Outcomes and Evaluation**

[Add details]

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<sup>2</sup> Nursing & Midwifery Council 2015 The code

<sup>3</sup> NHS GG&C Partnership Nurse Clinical Supervision Policy

