The future of advanced nursing practice
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Aim of the session

Discuss:
• specialist practice and advanced roles
• implications for nurses running clinics
• the future ..... feeling empowered?
There are inconsistencies in the use of the term ‘advanced practice’ and a wide range of roles carry the title ‘nurse specialist’, ‘specialist nurse’, ‘clinical nurse specialist’, ‘nurse practitioner’ and ‘advanced nurse practitioner’. In the UK, there is no agreement or title protection for specialist and advanced nurse practitioners leading to the creation of a plethora of titles and roles, and this has resulted in inconsistencies in the scope of practice, education and training provision across all providers. This, in turn, impacts on the career progression for nurse specialists and advanced nurse practitioners, including nurse consultants, and a lack of clarity around the nursing contribution to patient care at individual and system level.

However, the specialist nursing role is wider than those recognised via the regulatory framework. The RCN recognises that there are many types of specialist nurses in the UK, identifying that these nurses:

“...provide tailored care depending on the patient’s level of need. They also provide education and support for patients to manage their symptoms, particularly patients with long term conditions and multiple morbidities.”
The RCN define advanced practice as follows:

“Advanced practice is a level of practice, rather than a type of practice. Advanced Nurse Practitioners are educated at masters level in advanced practice and have been assessed as competent in practice using their expert knowledge and skills. They have the freedom and authority to act, making autonomous decisions in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of patients.”

Nurse Practitioners may or may not work to this standard depending on education and practice experience and competence.
Nationally agreed elements of advanced practice

All four UK countries agree that advanced practice should be viewed as a ‘level of practice’ rather than a specific role and it is not exclusively characterised by the clinical domain but may also include those working in research, education, management/leadership roles.

The core areas of advanced practice are:
Nationally agreed Specialist competences?

SCPHN

SPQ

QNI

Competency frameworks in a range of specialist areas
Implications

• Lack of regulatory framework and standards
• Skills and knowledge – self regulation
• Professional Code – Practise effectively; Preserve safety
• Education and training – CPD, Competency and standards (RCN, NICE, Charities)
• Increased demand for flexible and responsive health services
• Increasing expectations and a greater lay knowledge
• People living longer and with more complex ill health
• Ad hoc development of ANP roles; random use of titles by nurses that infer levels of clinical expertise that may not be verified
• No protection of titles and despite nationally agreed education and role, still variation in standards and competence
Agreed clinical competences

-Autonomous and self-directed practice

-Assessment and diagnostic skills - individuals, families and populations holistically such as physical examination, ordering and interpreting diagnostic tests or advanced health needs assessment

-Health promotion and prevention - comprehensively assess patients for risk factors and early signs of illness

-High level decision-making skills to determine evidence-based therapeutic interventions - including prescribing medication and actively monitoring the effectiveness of therapeutic interventions

-Plan and manage complete episodes of care; work in partnership; delegate, refer as appropriate; optimise health outcomes; provide direct support to patients and clients

-Use professional judgement; manage complex and unpredictable care events; improve patient care and service delivery

-Work with multi-agency and inter-professional resources in their practice

-Appropriately define the boundaries of their practice and manage risk.
The future ....

Is bright!!!
RCN Credentialing of Advanced Nurse Practitioners

- In the absence of regulation the RCN seeks to influence the standard of nursing through RCN accreditation/credentialing.
- Credentialing - a system of formal recognition of an individual’s credentials to practice at a particular level.
- The RCN will be using the credentials of experience, qualifications and competence.
- We will invite nurses working at an advanced level of practice to be credentialed by the College.
- Email: Credentialing@rcn.org.uk
RCN Clinical award

- Current RCN Fellowship by nomination
- Exploring Fellowship by application
- Exploring a model of Clinical award for senior and consultant nurses
Thank you for listening