



Short Case Study

Advanced Clinical Practitioners

Hereford and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust

Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust have a team of Advanced Clinical Practitioners (ACPs) working across 7 Community Hospitals.

The team is composed of nurses and one physio. Pre covid the Trust had started to implement a new medical model in the hospitals with ACPs working in each Community Hospital from 8am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday with GPs providing consultant oversight.

During Covid the role of the ACP was further developed. The acuity of patients in Community Hospitals increased, and some were acutely unwell. Patients were admitted directly from A&E as well as from the acute hospital wards.

ACPs could ensure management plans were in place for stepdown admissions from acute care. Direct admissions into the Community Hospitals were seen and clerked by the ACP.

Families phoned and spoke to the ACPs ensuring continuity of communication and supporting ward staff who were exceptionally busy giving direct patient care.

Supervision moved to being virtual using WebEx which ensured peer support and learning and development opportunities were not missed.

Benefits for patients

- Receiving the correct level of care from senior clinicians

Benefits for staff

- Senior clinical support to ensure safe, effective care delivery
- Opportunities to enhance learning and skills

Benefits for the Trust

- Flexibility to support the wider health and social care system while maintaining safe, effective care
- Recruited to fill all ACP posts

Next steps

- Managing acutely unwell patients is likely to continue and the increased skills and knowledge of the ACPs will support this
- Use of technology to support supervision, learning and development is time efficient and will continue as part of a hybrid model

What we have learnt

- Covid-19 enabled the team to evaluate what could appropriately be managed by ACPs in Community Hospitals which has informed the future staffing model

Contact



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