

The Advanced Critical Care Practitioner (ACCP)

Patient Information Leaflet 2019

ACCPs are clinical professionals that form part of the multidisciplinary team responsible for patient care during their Critical Care admission. They are highly experienced and educated practitioners who have developed their skills and theoretical knowledge to a very high standard. They are empowered to make high-level clinical decisions to ensure that patients receive timely, personal, and effective care.

The ACCP role is a new way of working for health professionals, which crosses professional boundaries. ACCPs are developed from experienced nurses, physiotherapists, paramedics or other related health care professionals

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF ACCPs?

The purpose of the ACCP is to provide care that is centred on patients and their needs, as they work through their critical illness. The ACCP will always work within a multi-professional team led by an appropriately trained and experienced Intensive Care Medicine consultant.

A trained ACCP can:

- Undertake an extensive assessment of the critically ill patient, including taking a history and completing a clinical examination
- Perform or order diagnostic and therapeutic procedures
- Prescribe medications and fluids (subject to current legislation) Develop and manage an acute management plan and pathway for the patient Perform invasive interventions and other practical skills under appropriate supervision
- Teach and educate patients, relatives and other members of the multi-professional team

HOW ARE ACCPs TRAINED?

All Faculty of Intensive Care medicine recognised ACCPs have completed a specific post graduate course studying at Masters Level. This focuses on academic knowledge plus the clinical competencies and skills required in the care and management of critically ill patients.

WHERE ARE ACCPs BASED?

ACCPs are mostly based in Intensive Care Units. They may also look after your relative during any part of their Critical care journey from Emergency Department, Critical Care referral, Transfer or follow up on the hospital wards.

HOW DO ACCPs FIT INTO THE CARE TEAM?

The ACCP works as part of the multidisciplinary team and will, as Access, Plan, and Implement and Evaluate all aspects of care with you and your family and communicate this to you where possible.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AS A PATIENT OR RELATIVE?

- The ACCP will identify them-selves to you so you are clear who is treating you or your loved one.
- Effective clinical management and care from a permanent highly trained member of the Intensive Care team.
- You may see ACCPs trained or in training on a regular basis during your stay and will get to know them well.
- You have a right to have a say in who provides your or your relatives' care. If you have concerns or questions please ask.