

JOB DESCRIPTION

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| JOB TITLE: | OPAT & Vascular Access Clinical Nurse Specialist |
| GRADE: | Band 7 |
| BASE: | Homerton University Hospital |
| MANAGED BY: | Infection Prevention & Control Lead Nurse |

JOB SUMMARY:

This post is intended to support the continued improvement and development of the Infection Prevention & Control's agenda at Homerton Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Hospital (HH) by strengthening the current Outpatient Parental Antibiotic Therapy & Vascular Access (OPAT & VA) Services. In addition the postholder will support the development of the HH antimicrobial stewardship programme.

The post holder will work as part of the Infection Prevention & Control Team to sustain a high quality service in the care of inpatients requiring intravenous devices and those using the OPAT service. They will be responsible for providing staff education, training and surveillance/audit of practice relating to intravenous devices and antimicrobial stewardship. In OPAT the post holder will work as part of the OPAT team to assess patients suitability, provide patient education, set up and coordinate care and be a point of contact for both patients and staff. The post holder will work closely with the current, permanent, OPAT & Vascular Access CNS to provide a seamless service.

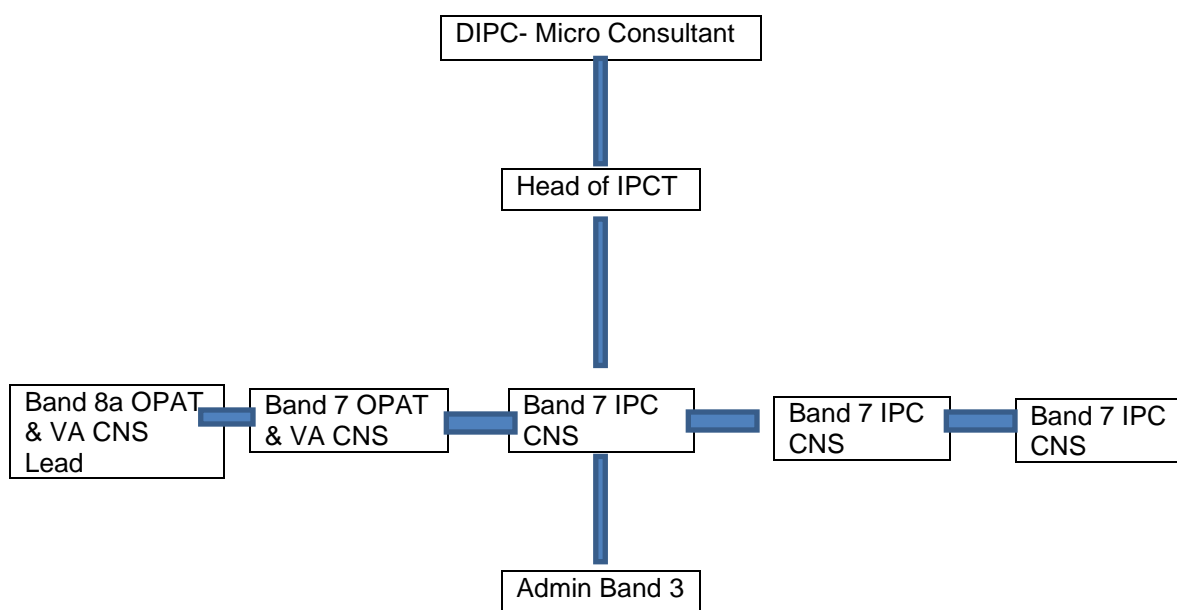
In addition the post holder will work closely with the current, permanent, OPAT & Vascular Access CNS to:

- Work with the wider Infection Prevention & Control team to develop strategies aimed at reducing unnecessary prescriptions and overuse of antibiotics. This includes delivery of training relating to the **Start Smart – Then Focus** Antimicrobial Stewardship Toolkit for English Hospitals.
- Produce audits and reports relating to the Infection Prevention & Control High Impact Interventions (HIIIs) for peripheral and central lines, anti-microbial stewardship and other relevant interventions aimed at decreasing hospital acquired infections (HAIs).
- Independently insert peripheral cannulas, midlines and PICC lines using ultrasound.
- Provide professional, clinical leadership and expertise in supporting clinical staff to safely manage all intravenous devices.
- Work as part of the wider Infection Prevention & Control Team to ensure seamless OPAT and Vascular Access services.
- To prevent complications relating to vascular access and manage those that occur (e.g. blocked PICC lines, line-related infections, extravasation) by facilitating a preventative approach through training on the use of the HIIIs and early interventions.
- Work with the Education Team to develop the cannulation programme.
- To work as part of the Infection Prevention & Control Team and to forge close working relationships with other healthcare professionals including nurses, doctors, phlebotomists, radiographers and the professional development Teams (PDNs).
- To identify patients at an early stage who are likely to require long term IV access or who have been identified as having poor peripheral access.



- To cross validate the HII data related to IV lines.
- To work closely with and support clinical teams to reduce the risk of 'just-in-case' cannulas, increase HII compliance particularly in relation to documentation.
- To assess patients on a weekly basis in the OPAT clinic and to provide telephone support weekly or as required.
- To support community staff to provide an intergrated service for patients with IV lines in situ with the aim of providing a seamless pathway of care from hospital to community.
- To reduce A&E attendance/readmissions by providing a telephone-based OPAT point of contact to troubleshoot IV related issues for patients and staff in the community.

Structure Chart



MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES:

- To establish and maintain effective communication and collaborative working with other professionals (e.g. members of the MDT, OPAT & VA CNS, consultant microbiologists, infection prevention & control team, community nurses, antimicrobial pharmacist) involved with patients to ensure seamless and streamlined patient care.
- To co-ordinate and provide early input of intravenous device assessment and clinical management advice for new and elective admissions to Homerton University Hospital on a daily basis
- To provide expert advice and support to clinical staff within the Trust in relation to intravenous devices
- To support patients in both ward-based, outpatient and A&E settings, whilst also providing telephone advice and support for the patient at home and community staff as required in relation to intravenous devices



- To work with the current, permanent, OPAT & Vascular Access Clinical Nurse Specialist to provide a comprehensive OPAT service.
- To work with the Antimicrobial Stewardship lead consultant Microbiologist to implement a comprehensive antimicrobial stewardship strategy across the Trust.
- To work toward achievement of KPIs relating to intravenous devices, OPAT and antimicrobial stewardship
- To familiarise and continuously update yourself with Statutory, Trust & local policies, procedures & protocols in relation to intravenous devices, infection prevention & control and antimicrobial stewardship.
- To facilitate a high quality specialist service through monitoring, audit and the maintenance/implementation of other quality initiatives agreed by the Trust.
- To set, monitor and review standards of care on a regular basis, through the formation of clinical care pathways and development of operational policies, procedures and guidelines.
- To ensure the active inclusion of the views of patients & carers in the monitoring and development of service provisions.
- To identify and intervene proactively where circumstances contribute to an unsafe environment for patients and staff and to bring such instances to the attention of the Lead Nurse and, where appropriate, other relevant personnel.
- To produce and present quarterly OPAT & Vascular Access Service reports to the Trust Infection Prevention & Control Committee (TIPCC).
- To produce the OPAT & Vascular Access Service annual report which will be presented to the TIPCC.
- To ensure that the service or components of the service are covered in the absence of the post holder and to ensure this is done in coordination with the current OPAT & Vascular Access Nurse.
- To actively participate in relevant meetings both within & outside the Trust, to ensure an awareness of national & local guidance, directives and developments.
- To identify requirements to carry forward this specialist role, in order to implement and manage the service provided and to develop the role according to patients' and staff needs and the resources available.
- To participate with other team members in service planning and the service review process as appropriate.



Education, Training and Development

- To develop resources for teaching both patients and staff.
- To contribute to the education and training of appropriate health professionals and in particular to develop nurses' skills with regard to intravenous devices management and antimicrobial stewardship
- To identify the specific educational needs of individual patients & carers under OPAT in relation to the care & management of IV lines and antibiotic administration and then facilitate meeting these needs.
- Takes responsibility for and directs teaching, supervising, mentoring and assessing all grades of staff.
- The post holder is required to develop a yearly training planner, identify staff which need to be trained and arrange registration of the staff and also to keep a log of all the staff trained.
- To acknowledge the limits of your professional competence and only undertake practice & accept responsibilities for those activities in which you are competent, actively seeking support for areas where development is required.

Personal Development

- To complete mandatory training as determined by the Trust.
- To recognise own need for continual education & skills updating and to take measures to meet these needs.
- To maintain own professional development through annual/bi-annual appraisal of clinical performance and the production of a professional development plan in conjunction with the Lead Nurse.
- To acknowledge the importance of support for self and to access personal clinical supervision.
- To be accountable for your practice and to take every reasonable opportunity to sustain and improve your professional competence.

Research and Development

- To identify and undertake audit and research as part of the Infection Prevention & Control Team and to advance the quality of services.
- To utilise research findings in the delivery of specialist patient care and to disseminate relevant information to staff.
- To contribute to, and where possible, undertake and publish nursing research.



Other Responsibilities

- To organise own work and manage the service caseload and practice, identifying and maintaining supportive networks for self and relevant staff members.
- To follow Trust procedure in giving information to relevant personnel regarding the notification of clinical risk incidents related to patients, staff or visitors.
- To act in accordance with the Nursing and Midwifery Council Code of Professional Practice for Nurses/Midwives and Health Visitors and the Scope of Professional Practice.
- Undertake and direct clinical supervision and act as a supervisor of junior nurses.

This job description outlines the current main responsibilities of the post. However the duties of the post may change and develop over time and this job description may, therefore, be amended in consultation with the postholder.

Further information

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We are committed to achieving [equality and inclusion for all our people at Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust](#). We are proud to be in one of the most diverse locations in the country, with nearly 90 different languages spoken as a main language, and we champion equality, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of our employment practices and service delivery. Every member of our staff is expected to understand, commit to, and champion equality, diversity and inclusion throughout their work.

Standards of English

All employees are required to have the appropriate level of English competence to enable them to effectively carry out their role, deliver safe care and enhance the patient experience. This is a requirement of the Immigration Act 2016 (Part 7), and the Person Specification will clearly define the required level of competence for the role.

Health and Safety

Employees, in line with the Trust's commitment to the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Previously known as the 'Hygiene Code'), improving infection control and health and safety are individually required to ensure that they make every effort to contribute to making the Trust a clean and safe environment within which to work and receive care.

All staff have a responsibility to prevent and control infection within Homerton Hospital. This includes ensuring personal and team compliance with the Hygiene Code (Health and Social Care Act 2008) and all relevant policies including Hand Hygiene, Homerton Dress Code, MRSA screening and Infection Control.



Trust Policies

All employees of the Trust are required to observe legislation, Trust policies, standards and guidelines relating to risk management, equal opportunities, data protection and standards of business conduct.

Safeguarding

It is the responsibility of each member of staff to be aware of, and work in accordance with, the Trust's safeguarding children and adults policies and procedures. This includes ensuring that they undertake statutory and mandatory safeguarding children and adult training appropriate for their role. In addition to acquiring safeguarding knowledge and skills, each member of staff must be competent and maintain their knowledge and skills in clinical practice to safeguard the health and wellbeing of children and adults.

Sustainability

It is the responsibility of leaders of the Trust to demonstrate and foster the Trust's commitment to environmental sustainability and corporate social responsibility by acting as a role model and enabling others. It is the responsibility of all staff to minimise the Trust's environmental impact by recycling wherever possible, switching off lights, computers, monitors and equipment when not in use, minimising water wastage and reporting faults promptly.

Smoke-Free

Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is smoke free. Smoking by staff is not permitted on Homerton premises.



Living Our Values – How We at the Homerton Work

Personal

We will provide care which addresses individual needs and focuses on our patients, service users, their families and carers, and our staff. We will do this by:

- ensuring that relationships with patients and service users are founded on compassion, empathy and kindness
- appreciating each person as an individual and addressing their specific needs
- actively listening to and involving patients and service users in decisions about their care
- providing continuity of care through good communication and teamwork

Safe

We will do everything we can to make our services as safe as possible and create a positive learning environment. We will do this by:

- being open and honest when we get things wrong, and doing all we can to correct and learn from our mistakes
- listening to our staff, patients, service users and their carers and using their feedback to improve services
- ensuring that we have the right staff, with the right skills, caring for each patient
- constantly monitoring standards of care and responding quickly if there are concern

Respectful

We will treat others as we would expect ourselves or our families to be treated and cared for. We will do this by:

- treating everyone with dignity and respect
- listening to others and valuing their contribution
- providing services that meet the diverse needs of our communities
- valuing and supporting the health and wellbeing of all our staff

Responsibility

We will take responsibility for our actions and any problems that we come across – we lead by example. We will do this by:

- being open and transparent about our performance and setting challenging improvement targets
- thinking differently and looking for new and innovative ways of working
- ensuring our care is evidence based and follows best practice
- doing the right thing, even when it is difficult



PERSON SPECIFICATION

POST: OPAT & Vascular Access Clinical Nurse Specialist
DEPT/UNIT: Infection Prevention & Control

BAND 7
DATE: June 2022

| | ESSENTIAL | DESIRABLE | MEANS OF ASSESSMENT |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|----------------------------|
| Education / Qualifications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered Nurse NMC registration (in date) Degree in nursing or working towards in relevant subject Evidence of continuous professional development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching qualification and training experience | AF |
| Skills/ Abilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to develop constructive working relationships with staff and managers at all levels Ability to foster effective team working within the OPAT & Vascular Access Team and the Infection Prevention & Control Team. Ability to work as part of a multidisciplinary team, as well as an autonomous practitioner Ability to conduct own projects successfully and follow them through, seeking guidance when needed. Ability to prioritise and organise own workload Excellent written and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to interpret complex information and present it in a clear and concise manner Ability to demonstrate advanced clinical expertise Experience of liaising with Primary Health Care Teams and resources Evidence of commitment to personal and professional development Able to use ultrasound technique for line insertions Evidence of involvement with patient/user groups to develop patient centred care | AF / I |



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| | <p>spoken communication skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to demonstrate a high level of personal motivation • Experience in managing central vascular access devices, including troubleshooting • Good at venepuncture & cannulation skills • Ability to assess audit needs and able to carry out audit programme, providing feedback • Experience of managing and sustaining change • Able to review national guidance and support interpretation for local implementation into policies and guidance • Good skills in IT systems and use of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel & Powerpoint) • Demonstrate enthusiasm for promoting high standards of care • Be a professional role model • Ability to negotiate and influence others and be able to deal with resistance to change | | |
| Experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of working | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical experience of working as a | AF / I |



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| | <p>autonomously</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in planning and delivering education sessions • Experience of teaching and developing junior staff • Experience in supporting service development and implementation of change. • Experience of managing resources • Experience in supporting other team members in the management of challenging patients/ situations | <p>Vascular Access and/or OPAT Nurse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in policy and report writing • Knowledge of statistics and report writing • Experience in PICC & midline insertion using ultrasound • Experience in supporting senior nurse when indicated in the management of staff • Leading service improvement | |
| Knowledge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of audit, research and evidence based nursing care • An understanding of resource management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of current developments and complex issues related to clinical practice in Vascular Access, OPAT and Antimicrobial Stewardship • Understanding and knowledge of key indicators of excellent quality care | |
| Trust Values, Equal Opportunities & Other Requirements | <p>Understanding and demonstration of the Trust Values</p> <p>Commitment and adherence to equality, diversity and inclusion</p> | | AF / I |

Signed: Position:

Mandatory components in all job descriptions are shown in italics

Means of Assessment include application form (AF), Interview (I), Test (T), Presentation (P)

