

The Advanced Critical Care Practitioner (ACCP)

ACCPs are clinical carers and form part of the multidisciplinary team responsible for your care or your relative's care during your or their stay in the ICU. The role is a new way of working for health professionals working in critical care. The role described crosses the professional boundaries of many functions within critical care, including medicine, nursing, technical, physiotherapy and clinical pharmacology. The role is designed to ensure that patients receive person-focused, timely and effective care.

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?

ACCPs are all experienced acute and critical care nurses, physiotherapists or clinical pharmacists by background with critical care experience. 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 in the care and management of critically ill patients.

WHERE ARE ACCPs BASED?

ACCPs are mostly based in Intensive Care Units, or as part of referral to ICU they may be part of the team caring for you or your relative in the Emergency Department or hospital wards.

HOW DO ACCPs FIT INTO THE CARE TEAM?

The ACCP works as part of the multidisciplinary team and will, as part of that team, plan and deliver aspects of your care with you and your family where possible.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AS A PATIENT OR RELATIVE?

The ACCP will identify themselves to you so you are clear who is treating you or your loved one.

Care and management from a highly trained practitioner who is a permanent member of the Intensive Care team.

You may see ACCPs trained and in training on a regular basis during your stay – they will get to know you and your family to ensure we provide the best care we can.

You have a right to have a say in who provides your/ your relatives' care if you have concerns or questions you are encouraged to voice these.

If you have any further questions or queries please ask the Nurse-in-Charge or the Consultant caring for you or your relative