

Case Study – role profile for nurse-led RACP clinic

Wrexham Maelor Hospital

The Cardiac Services Manager at Wrexham Maelor Hospital used the CHD competence framework to develop the role of the acute coronary syndrome (ACS) nurse to undertake a nurse-led rapid access chest pain clinic and to establish related guidelines and protocols.

The situation

Wrexham Maelor Hospital (North East Wales NHS Trust) is an average-sized district general hospital with a patient population of between 200 and 250 thousand people. There are two consultant cardiologists who undertake coronary angiography at the Cardiothoracic Centre, Liverpool. Other CHD services include diagnostic cardiology, cardiac rehabilitation, pacemaker implantation and a heart failure service. A new cardiac catheterisation facility is currently being developed in partnership with the Countess of Chester Hospital.

The aim

Karen Keating, Cardiac Services Manager, was aiming to develop the role of the acute coronary syndrome (ACS) Nurse. Karen felt that the current job holder had the capability to undertake a nurse-led rapid access chest pain clinic (RACPC). This role is at the level of an advanced practitioner and Karen was looking for a structured approach to developing the role in order to safeguard both patients and the nurse in question. The reason for using the CHD Competence Framework was to develop the role based on the job holder's competence to undertake this advanced practice coupled with the development of clear guidelines and protocols.

The action

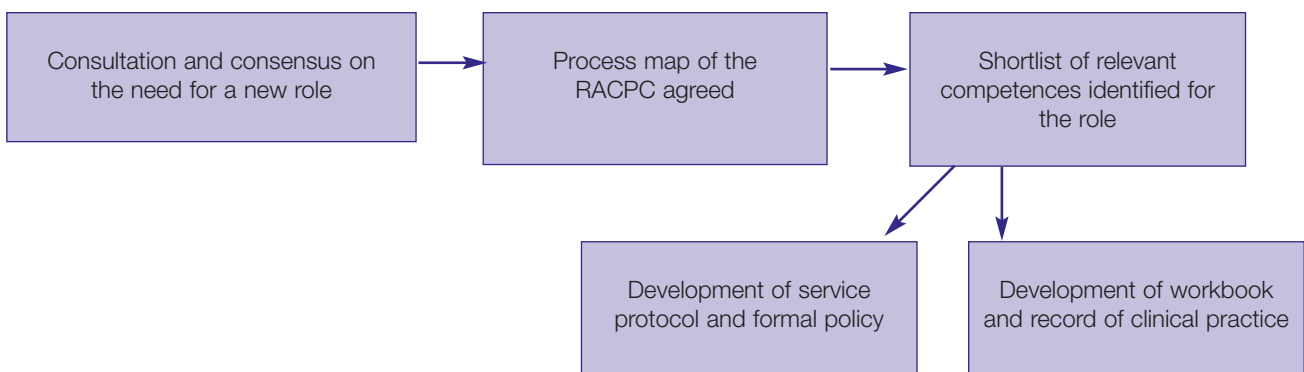
The plans for the RACPC service were initially discussed with a number of key people within the Trust, including the directorate general manager, consultant cardiologists, head of nursing for medicine, assistant executive nurse and chief physiological measurement technician. Once general consensus had been agreed that this plan was both desirable and achievable, detailed planning was able to go ahead. It was agreed at this stage to use the CHD competence framework to profile the job role. Karen and the ACS nurse brainstormed the RACPC process in order to identify the ACS nurse's role and what would be required at each stage of the patients' journey through the RACPC, starting from GP referral through to development and implementation of a treatment and management plan. A process map of the RACPC had previously been conducted as part of a modernisation programme and this information informed the brainstorming session. The CHD competences were reviewed, using the angina, ACS and revascularisation patient pathway. Initially a large number of the competences were printed off and filed in order to match the patients' journey with the nurse's role. These were then reviewed and reduced down to the key competences that they felt would be required. From this shortlist of competences, a role profile was outlined. Karen also made contact with other organisations where this role has already been developed in order to benchmark best practice.

The results

So far, the achievements have been related to the process of gaining agreement with regard to the development of the new role and the use of the CHD competences as the framework for the role. The competences which will be required have been identified and an action plan developed for the implementation of the new service. In undertaking this process, Karen and her colleagues provided feedback to the *Skills for Health* team regarding the coverage and presentation of the competences in the framework.

Two key documents are now being developed:

- service protocol and formal policy
- competence workbook/record of clinical practice.



The future

In addition to the role of the ACS nurse, it is planned to use the CHD competences in two other projects:

1. the role of the ward nurse in acute chest pain management within both CCU and the cardiology ward
2. the role of the cardiac rehabilitation nurses in a nurse-led angina clinic for newly-diagnosed angina patients.

Contact details

For further information on this case study, please contact:

Karen Keating, cardiac services manager at karen.keating@new-tr.wales.nhs.uk