

ADVANCED CLINICAL PRACTITIONER CASE STUDIES

PRIMARY CARE

Joe Hunter, ACP, General Practice, Haxby, Hull

Offering transferable skills, Paramedics are autonomous healthcare professionals who complement the multi-disciplinary primary care team.

The role is much more than first contact minor illness and injury however; Paramedics can be utilised for home visits, Mental Health Nurses for anxiety or depression, Pharmacists for medication reviews and Physiotherapists for musculoskeletal presentations.

This multi-profession team allows for peer-led tutorials, but also reduces the workload for General Practitioners (GPs). Patients benefit through 'right care, right time, right place'.

That said, transitioning to an Advanced Care Practitioner (ACP) does not come without its challenges. A supportive induction package, similar to that of GP Registrars is essential; extended appointments, debriefing, mentorship, protected learning time, shadowing and university. The commitment is a joint one between the practitioner and the practice; both get out what they invest in. While 'blood, sweat and tears' is a cliché for roller-coaster journey, the reward in professional development by far outweighs the cost.

Shaun Knott, ACP General Practice, Haxby Hull

My role as a Primary Care Practitioner (PCP) is dynamic but fluid. Each day creates a challenge, one that I feel able to meet head on. The training and support received over the four years I have been in this role ensures this challenge is achievable. The change from pre hospital care as a paramedic was very challenging. Initially my perception was '*there can't be much difference, just the patients come to you instead of visiting them in an ambulance*'. How wrong this was. It was a steep but thoroughly enjoyable learning curve over the years. The required academic courses were supported and allowed my development to thrive. Academia and support in daily practice from the GP's and fellow practitioners ensured I always felt confident I could ask for advice and support on assessments I was unsure of. This support led to my autonomy within the practice. Clinics are independently run and case loads are managed with acute and long term conditions individual challenges met.

The training and support received and plans for future development provide the confidence to give the patient a supportive and patient focused consultation. The team of allied professionals from a variety of backgrounds allows more complex cases to be seen by the GP's. This team work allows a greater number of appointments on a daily basis- providing the patient with more choice and availability.

