

Advanced Critical Care Practitioners (ACCPs)

ACCPs are non-physician clinical professionals responsible for patients' care in ICUs. They may be from a nursing, physiotherapy, paramedic, or AHP background and will have already worked in critical care before becoming ACCPs. The role was established in 2004 and the first FICM ACCP curriculum published in 2015.

1 Training

- ACCPs undertake MSc Level, ICM-specific advanced practice training at universities and in hospitals
- 3 years ACCP training of which 2 years is mandated as supernumerary
- Trained in accordance with the FICM ACCP Curriculum which requires a comprehensive capability portfolio of evidence
- ACCPs train and practice within the 'four pillars' of advanced practice
- All FICM ACCPs are properly trained and registered in Non-Medical Prescribing



4 Regulation & Scope

- ACCPs remain regulated by their base professional regulatory body, such as the Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) or Healthcare Professionals Council (HCPC) and are bound by these bodies to always act within their scope of practice
- ACCP scope of practice is clearly defined during training by the ACCP Curriculum
- Scope of practice will, in addition to core skills of the curriculum, reflect local service need with appropriate governance arrangements using Optional Skills Frameworks



2 Clinical Practice

- Holistic management of critically ill patients including performing advanced skills within scope of practice
- ACCPs are a permanent, consistent team member augmenting the medical provision of the service
- ACCPs provide consistency to the critical care service, and contribute to quality and safe standards of care delivery
- ACCPs facilitate medical education by maintaining service, as well as inputting to training and education for all members of the MDT



5 Funding & Posts

- Costs for training ACCPs are entirely separate from medical training
- Within NHS England most trainee ACCPs receive Apprenticeship Levy funding for academic costs. Devolved nations training costs are largely funded by Health Boards
- Numbers of trainee ACCPs are not set nationally, by either NHSE or FICM. They are defined locally by individual units based on local workforce and service need.



3 Supervision & Management



- ACCPs of all levels are responsible to the duty ICM consultant.
- Line management is dual with ICM consultant lead and a senior member of base profession or Lead ACCP
- Clinical supervision is appropriate to patients' needs, and determined by employers' governance frameworks

6 Career Pathway

- ACCP career pathway is entirely separate to medical career progression. The career pathway for ACCPs can, for some, lead to 'Lead ACCP', 'Senior ACCP' and 'Consultant ACCP', which are leadership roles with defined clinical practice. These titles are not awarded by FICM but are established terms within advanced practice
- Retention of ACCPs is supported by sustainable careers documents
- Senior ACCPs may undertake additional non-clinical work to support the unit and the specialty of ICM

