

Developing the Role of the Assistant Practitioner in CICU

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What were our main challenges?

Choosing the Right People

Managing Expectations

Agreeing the Competencies

Bristol Heart Institute - CICU



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Embracing change
Recognising success
Working together
Our hospitals.

Why Assistant Practitioners ?

- New department brought new opportunities
- Skill mix changes enabled new ways of working
- Band 2 and Band 3 Nursing Assistants already in CICU
- Foundation degree course available locally
- Need to work differently in a critical care environment
- Level of supervision available was high

What do Assistant Practitioners do?

Arterial Blood gases

Care for ventilated patients

Remove chest drains

Assist with haemofiltration

Tracheostomy care

How did we decide the competencies?

- Trust wide competency framework
- Links to KSF, National Occupational Standards
- Links to academic competencies
- National Network
- Identify levels of supervision required

What were the competencies?

Core Competencies

Communication

Assessment of patients

Working within limits of competence

Management of a group of patients

Identification of the acutely ill patients

Discharge and transfer of patients

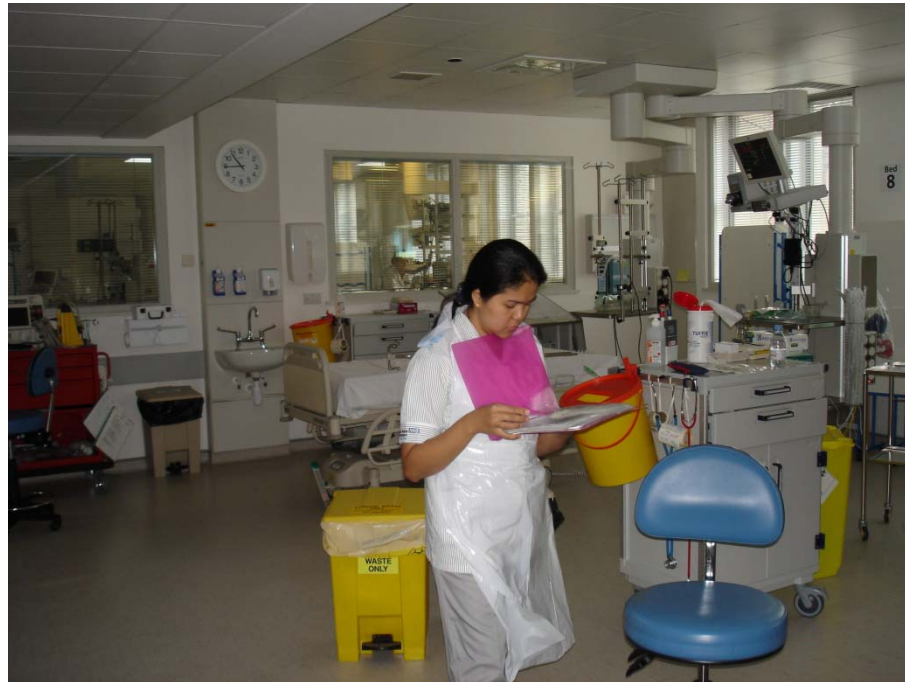
Fluid delivery – pump care, venepuncture

Specific Competencies agreed with Managers

Future Development

- Drug administration?
- Expansion of skills
- Further professional academic development
- Employ more

Any Questions?



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