

JOB DESCRIPTION

1. General Information

JOB TITLE: Lymphoedema Specialist Practitioner

GRADE: Band 7

HOURS: 37.5

RESPONSIBLE TO: Advanced Clinical Practitioner in Lymphoedema

ACCOUNTABLE TO: Oncology Head of Nursing

Guy's & St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust comprises five of the UK's best known hospitals – Guy's, St Thomas', Evelina London Children's Hospital, Royal Brompton and Harefield – as well as community services in Lambeth and Southwark, all with a long history of high quality care, clinical excellence, research and innovation.

We are among the UK's busiest, most successful foundation trusts. We provide specialist care for patients including heart and lung, cancer and renal services as well as a full range of local hospital and community services for people in Lambeth and Southwark.

We have a long tradition of clinical and scientific achievement and – as part of King's Health Partners – we are one of England's eight academic health sciences centres, bringing together world-class clinical services, teaching and research. We have one of the National Institute for Health Research's biomedical research centres, established with King's College London in 2007, as well as dedicated clinical research facilities.

We have around 22,700 staff, making us one of the largest NHS Trusts in the country and one of the biggest employers locally. We aim to reflect the diversity of the communities we serve and continue to develop new and existing partnerships with local people, patients, neighbouring NHS organisations, local authorities and charitable bodies and GPs.

We strive to recruit and retain the best staff as the dedication and skills of our employees lie at the heart of our organisation and ensure that our services are of the highest quality, safe and focused on our patients.

Organisational Values:

The post holder will:

- **Put patients first** - consider the patient's needs and wishes in all that they do
- **Take pride in what they do** – strive for highest standards on own work and challenge colleagues to do the same
- **Strive to be the best** – in terms of patient care & teamwork
- **Act with integrity** - maintain the privacy & dignity of patients, work with integrity and be trustworthy, be accountable for own work
- **Respect others** – patients, visitors and colleagues. Actively give and receive feedback .

2. Job Summary

The postholder will assess, plan, implement and evaluate expert patient care and provide specialist advice in Lymphoedema to patients, families and health professionals within GSTT. They will be responsible for developing communication pathways with key stakeholders including GPs and District Nurses across health and social care settings.

The postholder will have continuing responsibility for the coordination and review of individual treatment programmes. This is a key position working with multidisciplinary teams within the Trust. The postholder will also be involved in management tasks such as the development of policies, involvement in quality and audit initiatives and educational programmes for staff and students.

3. Duties and Responsibilities

CLINICAL:

- 3.1 Working autonomously to manage his/her own caseload of patients, whilst working as part of the multidisciplinary team. Maintain effective communication with patients, carers and professionals to ensure seamless service delivery.
- 3.2 Provide clinical advice in accordance with current evidence based practice.
- 3.3 Develop good working relationships with relevant staff within the hospital and community setting.
- 3.4 To provide support for newly referred patients and their families.

- 3.5 To assess and make a clinical diagnosis for new patients in the clinical area, identifying their psychological, physiological, emotional, spiritual and cultural needs in relation to their condition and proposed treatment, providing a pathway of care for the patient.
- 3.6 To act as the patients' advocate when relevant and be able to educate on all the treatment options to enable a patient to make an informed choice. Referring back to medical team where appropriate.
- 3.7 To ensure patients and their families are given appropriate oral and written information regarding planned care.
- 3.8 To formulate individualized patient treatment care programmes referring back to medical teams where appropriate and considering –
 - each patient is placed in the correct treatment protocol
 - investigations and treatments are organised as needed
- 3.9 Provide continuity of care for patients and their carers throughout treatment. Providing support for distressed carers and relatives at diagnosis, through treatment and referring to appropriate agencies.
- 3.10 Provide communication pathway to key stakeholders in the patients care across health and social care settings.
- 3.11 Continue to develop liaison role with primary health care providers and liaise with other statutory and voluntary agencies as required within the South East London Cancer Network.
- 3.12 The lymphoedema service is an autonomous practitioner led service where the specialist is responsible for managing the caseload. The practitioner should be an expert in the use of both the Doppler and Perometer assessment tools.
- 3.13 Participate in case conferences in relation to future management or discharge arrangements.
- 3.14 Maintain adequate patient records and ensure all relevant information is documented in the patient's medical and nursing notes.
- 3.15 Act as an expert practitioner in advising staff in the management of lymphoedema.

3.16 Act as a role model for excellence

MANAGERIAL:

- 3.17 Coordinate the development of nursing policies, procedures and patient information relating to the care of patients receiving treatment for lymphoedema.
- 3.18 To be responsible for updating professional knowledge in the management of lymphoedema.
- 3.19 To act as clinical supervisor to staff within the Service Development Unit.
- 3.20 To act as a mentor to pre and post registration nurses, assisting in meeting their learning needs.
- 3.21 Assist the Lead Cancer Nurse with the strategic planning of the lymphoedema service across GSTT Foundation Trust.
- 3.22 Contribute to the development of local policies in relation to the implementation of the NHS Cancer Plan, NICE Guidance, GSK Cancer Strategy Programme and National Service Framework.
- 3.23 To represent Guy's and St Thomas' Trust as an expert practitioner in lymphoedema in external situations, for example conferences, committees etc.
- 3.24 Contribute to the development of national and local policies in relation to the implementation of Care Pathways for the management of Lymphoedema.
- 3.25 Demonstrate an accurate knowledge of available therapeutic equipment and lymphoedema care products in order to provide specialist advice relating to purchasing and commissioning of lymphoedema resources and services.

EDUCATIONAL:

- 3.26 To participate in the development and teaching of post-registration educational programmes at local education providers including at King's College – University of London and other organisations external to the Trust including Cancer/Palliative Care pathway and haemato-oncology post-registration modules.

- 3.27 Responsible for providing up to date training programmes for a variety of Health Care Professionals in relation to speciality.
- 3.28 To identify assess and meet the educational needs of the patient and the family
- 3.29 To identify link nurses and /or AHP and co-ordinate an organisation wide staff training programme, which covers all aspects of lymphoedema management
- 3.30 To represent the Trust in internal/external forum in relation to specific educational initiatives.

PROFESSIONAL:

- 3.31 Contributes to the development of local policies in relation to the implementation of the NHS Cancer Plan
- 3.32 To act in accordance with local policies and procedures laid down by Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.
- 3.33 Work to meet the objectives of the Trust's Nursing and Midwifery Strategy.
- 3.34 To be responsible for maintaining a professional profile
- 3.35 Participate in raising the profile of the lymphoedema service within the Trust.
- 3.36 To work within the NMC Scope of Professional Practice and Code of Conduct or alternative professional body.
- 3.37 To undertake an IPR annually to identify organisational and professional objectives and developmental needs

AUDIT AND RESEARCH

- 3.38 Participate in the collection and evaluation of clinical audit within the speciality.
- 3.39 Produce annual reports and submit other reviews relating to service activity.

- 3.40 Remain conversant with the activities of the British Lymphology Research Forum, national and international research projects related to lymphoedema.
- 3.41 To contribute to the directorate audit and research programme as requested.
- 3.42 To identify topics and carry out nursing research in relation to specialist area of practice.
- 3.43 To present audit/research topics as requested at the directorate audit meetings and other appropriate internal and external meetings.

The post holder is required to follow Trust policies and procedures which are regularly updated including:

Confidentiality / Data Protection / Freedom of Information

Post holders must maintain the confidentiality of information about patients, staff and other health service business in accordance with the Data Protection Act of 1998. Post holders must not, without prior permission, disclose any information regarding patients or staff. If any member of staff has communicated any such information to an unauthorised person those staff will be liable to dismissal. Moreover, the Data Protection Act 1998 also renders an individual liable for prosecution in the event of unauthorised disclosure of information.

Following the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2005, post holders must apply the Trust's FOI procedure if they receive a written request for information.

Equal Opportunities

Post holders must at all times fulfil their responsibilities with regard to the Trust's Equal Opportunities Policy and equality laws.

Health and Safety

All post holders have a responsibility, under the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) and subsequently published regulations, to ensure that the Trust's health and safety policies and procedures are complied with to maintain a safe working environment for patients, visitors and employees.

Infection Control

All post holders have a personal obligation to act to reduce healthcare associated infections (HCAIs). They must attend mandatory training in Infection Control and be compliant with all measures required by the Trust to reduce HCAIs. Post holders must be familiar with the Trust's Infection Control Policies,

including those that apply to their duties, such as Hand Decontamination Policy, Personal Protective Equipment Policy, safe procedures for using aseptic techniques and safe disposal of sharps.

Risk Management

All post holders have a responsibility to report risks such as clinical and nonclinical accidents or incidents promptly. They are expected to be familiar with the Trust's use of risk assessments to predict and control risk, as well as the incident reporting system for learning from mistakes and near misses in order to improve services. Post holders must also attend training identified by their manager, or stated by the Trust to be mandatory.

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

Post holders have a general responsibility for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults in the course of their daily duties and for ensuring that they are aware of the specific duties relating to their role.

Smoking Policy

It is the Trust's policy to promote health. Smoking, therefore, is actively discouraged. It is illegal within Trust buildings and vehicles.

Review of this Job Description

This job description is intended as an outline of the general areas of activity and will be amended in the light of the changing needs of the organisation. To be reviewed in conjunction with the post holder.

CP 29/12/2022