

Evidence Brief: Advanced clinical practice

Contents

*Help accessing articles or papers	2
Key publications – the big picture	3
Case Studies.....	4
The Star for workforce redesign	4
Statistics.....	5
National Data Programme.....	5
Published Peer Reviewed Research.....	5
Development of the role	5
Impact of the role.....	6
Workforce	7
Education and training.....	9
Primary care	10
Nursing	11
Allied Health Professions.....	12
Research	13
Competency Frameworks	13

Produced by the Knowledge Management team Evidence Briefs offer an overview of the published reports, research, and evidence on a workforce-related topic.

Date of publication: November 2025

Please acknowledge this work in any resulting paper or presentation as:
Evidence Brief: Advanced clinical practice. Jo McCrossan. (November 2025). UK: Workforce, Training and Education Knowledge Management Team

There may have been an update to this Evidence Brief - to check you are reading the most current version please see the links below:

- [Complete Evidence Brief list – link for Workforce, Training and Education staff](#)
- [Complete Evidence Brief list – link for External staff](#)

***Help accessing articles or papers**

Where a report/ journal article or resource is freely available the link has been provided. If an NHS OpenAthens account is required this has been indicated. It has also been highlighted if only the abstract is available. If you do not have an OpenAthens account you can [self-register here](#).

If you need help accessing an article, or have any other questions, contact the Knowledge Management team for support england.knowledgemanagement@nhs.net

Key publications – the big picture

[Advanced practice](#)

NHS Employers, November 2023

Having healthcare professionals at advanced level increases capacity and capability within services. By integrating into multi-professional teams, advanced practitioners provide clinical leadership and enable collaboration across the multi-disciplinary team through complex decision making and managing risk. This also gives organisations a flexible workforce to meet changing population, patient, and service delivery needs. Advanced practitioners help to improve clinical continuity and provide high-quality care for patients. They enable workforce transformation to initiate a wider range of advanced clinical care being provided by a varied range of multi-professional clinicians rather than focusing on medical doctors as the sole providers of advanced clinical care. Advanced practitioners can accelerate access to care for patients and help to improve outcomes.

[Independent report on the regulation of advanced practice in nursing and midwifery](#)

Nuffield Trust, May 2023

Our work is intended to provide a baseline review of the key regulatory implications of advanced practice in nursing and midwifery in the UK. To do so, we have taken stock of the existing policy and published international literature on the nature and effects of the regulation of these roles, reviewed job adverts for advanced practice roles, analysed available administrative data and engaged with an array of stakeholders.

[The role of governance in advanced practice](#)

NHS Employers, March 2023

The matrix is designed to be used across all NHS settings including acute, community, mental health and primary care. It is recommended that only those with responsibility for advanced

practice within their organisation complete the matrix to inform their local advanced practice implementation strategy. It is useful to ensure that there is no duplication of this work elsewhere within the organisation to avoid confusion.

[Long Term Plan](#)

NHS, January 2019

The NHS Long Term Plan was developed in partnership with those who know the NHS best – frontline health and care staff, patients and their families and other experts.

p. 90 “The mental health sector is already delivering innovative workforce solutions to meet the needs of patients. As well as an increase in the recruitment and retention in mental health medical training, new roles, such as physician associates, nursing associates, AHP associates and Advanced Clinical Practitioners are an important part of meeting current and future workforce demands. The evidence for these approaches is strong – introducing Peer Support Workers to acute settings has been shown to reduce readmissions.”

4.38. “We will expand multi-professional credentialing to enable clinicians to develop new capabilities formally recognised in specific areas of competence. This will allow clinicians to shift or expand their scope of practice to other areas more easily, creating a more adaptable workforce. With partners, we have already developed several credentials, for example the Royal College of Nursing’s Advanced Level Nurse Practitioner credentialing scheme and the Royal College of Emergency Medicine’s credentialing for Emergency Care Advanced Clinical Practitioners. We will accelerate development of credentials for mental health, cardiovascular disease, ageing population, preventing harm and cancer, with the intention of publishing standards in 2020.”

What is advanced clinical practice?

NHS England (Workforce, Training and Education, formerly Health Education England), no date

Advanced clinical practitioners come from a range of professional backgrounds such as nursing, pharmacy, paramedics and occupational therapy. They are healthcare professionals educated to Master's level and have developed the skills and knowledge to allow them to take on expanded roles and scope of practice caring for patients. The NHS Long-Term Plan highlights how advanced clinical practice is central to helping transform service delivery and better meet local health needs by providing enhanced capacity, capability, productivity and efficiency within multi-professional teams. Developing advanced clinical practice roles, as well as the level of practice just below and above ACP level should be considered a key component of contemporary workforce planning, as described in the NHS Long Term Plan.

- [ACP webinar introduction and practice](#)
- [Advanced clinical practice – looking across the system](#)
- [Developing advanced practice in clinical care: analysis of physical and online workshops](#)

Advanced critical care practitioner infographic

NHS Employers, October 2018

This infographic explores the role of the advanced clinical care practitioner (ACCP). This relatively new role offers employers an opportunity to upskill nursing and physiotherapy staff to become highly-trained clinicians within critical care teams. ACCPs can bridge occupational boundaries and ensure a focus on holistic patient-centred care and can often improve communications between medical and nursing staff.

Case Studies

The Centre for Advancing Practice

Health Education England, no date

A number of case studies are available, grouped by region:

- [Regional Faculty for Advancing Practice – North West: Advanced Practice Role Transformation](#)
- [Regional Faculty for Advancing Practice – North East and Yorkshire: Case Studies](#)
- [Regional Faculties for Advancing Practice – East of England: Case studies](#)
- [Regional Faculty for Advancing Practice – Midlands: Case Studies](#)
- [Regional Faculty for Advancing Practice – London: Advanced Practitioner Profiles](#)
- [Regional Faculty for Advanced Practice – South West: South West Case Studies](#)
- [Regional Faculty for Advancing Practice – South East: Case studies](#)

Case studies – reshaping the workforce to deliver the care patients need

Nuffield Trust in association with NHS Employers, May 2016

See case study 5 on p. 28 – “Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: advanced clinical practitioners”

The Star for workforce redesign

More resources and tools are available in the **Upskilling** section of [the Star](#) or by searching for “**Advanced Clinical Practice**”

Statistics

You can find relevant statistics on the [Health and Care Statistics Landscape](#) under “**Health and Care**” and use the “**Workforce**” filter.

National Data Programme

Workforce, Training and Education staff can look at the [National Data Warehouse \(NDL\)](#) SharePoint site to find out more about datasets and Tableau products.

Published Peer Reviewed Research

Development of the role

[The advanced practice nurse role's development and identity: an international review](#)

International Journal for Advancing Practice, January 2024
Globally, the APN role is growing to meet the aging population's needs and the prevalence of chronic and infectious diseases. APNs are uniquely poised to assist in addressing the physician shortage. APNs can function autonomously and as an integral part of the healthcare team. The facilitators and barriers in APN role development had recurring themes. Supporting the APN role development and implementation requires greater harmonisation and informed global priorities through education, clinical and regulatory requirements (Kilpatrick et al, 2023). If the WHO's mandate of universal healthcare is to be realised, improved coordination of resources and interprofessional collaboration is essential.

[The Advanced Clinical Practitioner \(ACP\) in UK healthcare: Dichotomies in a new 'multi-professional' profession](#)

SSM - Qualitative Research in Health (3), June 2023

This paper has extended the theoretical category of post professionalism to include a much larger and more diverse profession than has been demonstrated empirically hitherto, and in the English NHS. It is possible that ACP is an early sign of a different future for professions, where the classical 'protective' model of professionalism is increasingly not supported by the state, but this does not mean that professions will disappear. ACP's contested, liminal status as a profession may become more common.

[Uptake of advanced clinical practice roles in the health service in England: Perspectives at the micro level](#)

SSM - Qualitative Research in Health (2), December 2022

This qualitative, multi-site study, the first to explore the motivational factors at the micro level influencing advanced practice role uptake, from the perspective of a range of health professionals, identified that early role adopters were predominantly motivated by intrinsic factors. These motivational factors reflected participants' desires for advancement, both personal and for their profession, and improved efficiency of patient care.

[The development of advanced clinical practice roles in the UK](#)

British Journal of Nursing, January 2021

Increasing life expectancy, complexity and disease burden, the European Working Time Directive and a subsequent shortage of medical personnel have often been cited as drivers for the implementation of advanced practice roles (Boulanger, 2008; Evans et al, 2020a; Torrens et al, 2020). However, caution is advised when rationalising their introduction and development to that of the medical substitution paradigm. Advanced practice roles complement existing medical models and are not designed

to replace them. Since their inception, there has been great diversity in ACP roles and also some controversy surrounding them. Nevertheless, a colossal effort from professional bodies such as the Council of Deans of Health (CoDoH), the Association of Advanced Practice Educators (AAPE UK) and the royal colleges as well as HEE has led to a huge investment in workforce development in this area of service delivery, in order to meet patients' needs in the future. Development in this area has also included the introduction of a multiprofessional definition of advanced clinical practice, the first of its kind, to provide clarity for employers, service leads, education providers, health professionals and ACPs themselves (HEE, 2017).

Impact of the role

[Exploring the role of advanced clinical practitioners in the UK](#)

Abstract only*

International Journal for Advancing Practice, January 2025

This article explores the evolution of the advanced clinical practitioner (ACP) role and its impact on healthcare services in the UK. The author has critically appraised the challenges faced by ACPs, factors that shape the role of ACPs and the importance of the four pillars of advanced clinical practice in underpinning patient care. The article has been written from the perspective of ACPs working in urgent community response services in the north west of England. The author raises concerns regarding the lack of regulation of the ACP role and advocates for the implementation of policies and procedures that both define and protect the role.

[Characterising the outcomes, impacts and implementation challenges of advanced clinical practice roles in the UK: a scoping review](#)

BMJ Open, October 2023

This is the first attempt to comprehensively map the evidence on advanced clinical practice roles across all sectors, professions and settings in the UK, highlighting clear implications for national health workforce policy development. The review covers ACP roles in all health professions, hence, has a broad relevance and applicability. The use of an internationally recognised framework (PEPPA-Plus) to map the outcomes, impacts and implementation challenges of advanced practice roles boosts the international relevance of the findings.

[Nationwide evaluation of the advanced clinical practitioner role in England: a cross-sectional survey](#)

OpenAthens log in required*
BMJ Open, July 2023

This work was commissioned by HEE to survey the advancing practice workforce and key stakeholders. The aim of the survey was to provide information on the role of the advanced practitioner and to inform future work developing and improving advancing practice within the NHS in England. This survey will also provide a baseline to evaluate these future developments of the role of advanced practitioners.

[Scoping of advanced clinical practitioner role implementation using national job advertisements: Document analysis](#)

Journal of Advanced Nursing, March 2023

It is evident that the ACP role is still not clearly defined or understood, Murphy and Mortimore (2020) described it as an 'umbrella term' covering those in specialist roles and the generalist ACP. Wallymahmed and Pearson (2022) concur, suggesting both roles operate in an advanced sphere the ACP is better suited to generalist practice. The debate is exacerbated by the multiprofessional framework (HEE, 2017) which describes

the capabilities expected by anyone in an advanced role. However, a lack of awareness of these capabilities and unique differences derived from clinical practice results in ambiguity and uncertainty as to what the advanced role entails and confusion with specialist posts (Cooper et al., 2019). Despite this, there is now acceptance that the ACP (role) is operating as an AP (level) not within an individual professional arena (Fothergill et al., 2022).

[Exploring the role of advanced clinical practitioners \(ACPs\) and their contribution to health services in England: A qualitative exploratory study](#)

Nurse Education in Practice, February 2023

This study outlines the contribution that ACPs can make to health services, contributing factors and key barriers and facilitators to implementing this role. The work showed the positive contribution ACPs can make to service redesign, workforce development and patient outcomes, whilst accepting there is much work to do to ensure protected status and parity across all professions and clinical contexts.

[Qualitative study of perceptions of senior health service staff as to factors influencing the development of Advanced Clinical Practice roles in mental health services](#)

Journal of Psychiatric & Mental Health Nursing, October 2021

The paper uniquely provides specific information as to factors perceived by senior staff as affecting the implementation of ACP roles in mental health services. A wide range of mental health services were perceived as potentially benefiting from ACPs. Establishing role clarity for MHN ACPs is perceived as being as essential to successful introduction of the role, as has been found for other specialities.

Workforce

[Power dynamics between health professionals and the social and symbolic capital of advanced practice](#) Abstract only*

International Journal for Advancing Practice, October 2025

This article explores the interprofessional behaviours and power dynamics between doctors and advanced practitioners in healthcare. Advanced practice roles across many professions working at a higher level of practice are increasingly used in support of improving access and health outcomes in systems of care alongside a range of other professions. Advanced practitioners have complex roles, navigating boundary work, professional challenges and leading the delivery of care for their patients to maximise their impact. The interface with medicine is an important one, that has significant implications to the development of the capital of advanced practice role. Increasing professional protectionism in medicine, as clinicians perceive an erosion of their powerful position in healthcare is having a negative impact on advanced roles with important implications for the concept of team, the role of advanced practice and future workforce developments in healthcare.

[What are advanced clinical practitioners' expectations of the benefits of pursuing the role, and are these being realised?](#)

International Journal for Advancing Practice, October 2024

This research provides insight from a diverse group of ACPs of their lived experiences, aspirations and driving forces to either enter or remain working in the profession. Five themes were identified during focus group discussions: 1) clinical/non-clinical balance; 2) full use of knowledge, skills and experience; 3) leadership in quality improvement; 4) career progression; and 5) policy, vision and organisation. Gaps between ACPs' expectations and their lived experience of the role were identified.

Evidence Brief: Advanced clinical practice

[Examining advanced clinical practice from the perspective of a trainee advanced clinical practitioner](#) Abstract only*

International Journal for Advancing Practice, April 2024

This article discusses advanced clinical practice from the perspective of a trainee advanced clinical practitioner (ACP). The commentary explores the four pillars of advanced practice with respect to the frailty specialty, taking both the author and a trainee ACP into account. The evaluation analyses the historical development of advanced clinical practice and the knowledge, skills and competencies expected at the advanced level. It highlights how support, colleague networking and supervision remain vital to the journey of trainee ACP, and influences the overall wellbeing of, and care given to, the patient.

[Exploring advanced clinical practitioner perspectives on training, role identity and competence: a qualitative study](#)

BMC Nursing, March 2024

The ACP role is now integrated across many specialties both nationally and internationally, however challenges continue to persist in training, impacting on transition into the role. At a collective level, there remains a lack of structure and clarity around the ACP role, and individually ACPs appear to experience issues with supervision and support. This study has highlighted that the journey to advanced level practice is often turbulent, and changes are required to further embed the ACP training and role into the workplace. Ensuring ACPs have appropriate continuous support, allocated sufficient time to learn and practice, and wider recognition of the ACP role through accreditation would aid the training experience and a successful role transition.

[Assessing the benefits of advanced clinical practice for key stakeholders](#) OpenAthens log in required*

British Journal of Nursing, March 2024

There are several barriers to the implementation of advanced clinical practice and therefore the realisation of its benefits for key stakeholders. Areas requiring attention include training, support from others for role expansion and organisational issues.

[Thesis] [A Cross-Sectional, Exploratory, Mixed-Method Study Examining Advanced Clinical Practitioners' Expectations and Experiences of Their Roles](#)

ProQuest Dissertations & Theses, 2024

The aim of the research contained within this thesis was to understand the expectations Advanced Clinical Practitioners (ACPs) have regarding the role and to evaluate whether expectations are currently being realised. Five themes were constructed from 17 participants over 3 focus group discussions: the need for 1) clinical/ non-clinical balance; 2) full use of knowledge, skills and experience; 3) leadership in quality improvement; 4) career progression; and 5) policy, vision, and structure to support effective implementation of the role.

[Are advanced clinical practice roles in England's National Health Service a remedy for workforce problems? A qualitative study of senior staff perspectives](#) OpenAthens log in required*

Journal of Health Services Research & Policy, August 2021

Small numbers of advanced clinical practice roles were reported, often in single services. Four main influences were identified in the development of advanced clinical practice roles: staff shortages (particularly of doctors in training grades) combined with rising patient demand, the desire to retain individual experienced staff, external commissioners or purchasers of services looking to shape services in line with national policy, and commissioner-funded new roles in new ambulatory care services and primary care. Three factors were reported as

enabling the roles: finance for substantive posts, evidence of value of the posts, and structural support within the organization. Three factors were perceived as inhibiting developing the roles: confusion and lack of knowledge amongst clinicians and managers, the availability of finance for the roles, and a nervousness (sometimes resistance) to introducing the new roles.

[Workforce experience of the implementation of an advanced clinical practice framework in England: a mixed methods evaluation](#)

Human Resources for Health, December 2020

There seems to be a dichotomy developing in terms of implementation of the HEE framework by employers between advanced clinical practice as a level of practice of the registered professional and advanced clinical practitioner as a novel omniprofessional role framed in the medical model as opposed to advancement of professional practice. [...] ACPs revealed that in some cases, employers expected advanced practice training to be carried out at the same time as their original job. This difficulty has been identified in the past, yet in implementing advanced clinical practice it is evident that efforts have not been made to address the issue of added workload whilst developing the role. Role transitions, in particular the transition to nurse practitioner has been described as an 'overwhelming' process that is defined by straddling two identities and 'transition shock' is common. This can result in a struggle to form an identity and feeling like an imposter.

Education and training

[Enhancing advanced clinical practitioners' non-clinical skills](#)

Abstract only*

British Journal of Nursing, February 2025

This article examines the setting up, running and content of a study day for advanced clinical practitioners (ACPs) at the Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust, aimed at enhancing non-clinical competencies in leadership, education and research. Despite a structured national framework, ACPs often report limited support in these areas. The event provided targeted education, encouraged a sense of community, and received positive feedback, showing improvements in participants' knowledge, confidence and professional connections. Recommendations include making this an ongoing initiative to support comprehensive skill development.

[Supporting advanced practice: feedback from a mental health, community and primary care advanced practice support project in South Yorkshire, UK](#)

International Journal for Advancing Practice, July 2024

Meeting the demands of ACP training in areas where the role is less established remains an ongoing challenge. It seems some of these challenges relate to the lack of practical support being provided by employers or higher education institutions, such as lived experience of completing the task of ACP training. Support projects, like the one discussed in this article, appear aptly placed to help fulfil these needs and begs the question 'why aren't there more?', especially when advanced practitioners are fundamental to the future healthcare workforce.

[Identifying competencies in advanced healthcare practice: an umbrella review](#) Abstract only*

Advances in Health Sciences Education, June 2024

The four pillars of advanced healthcare practice (AHCP) are clinical practice, leadership and management, education, and research. It is unclear, however; how competencies of AHCP as defined by individual health professions relate to these pillars. Addressing this knowledge gap will help to facilitate the operationalization of AHCP as a concept and help inform educational curricula. To identify existing competencies across AHCP literature and examine how they relate to the four pillars of a multi-professional AHCP framework, an umbrella review was conducted in accordance with JBI methodology. Many retrieved competencies were found to map to the four pillars of AHCP, although clinical practice and leadership and management pillars were addressed more often.

Primary care

[“A little bit more looking...listening and feeling” A qualitative interview study exploring advanced clinical practice in primary care and community pharmacy](#)

International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy, November 2021

While pharmacists have been practising at an advanced level in primary care settings for a number of years, an increasing number of community pharmacists are practising at this level, and the experiences of both groups are vital for understanding how better to embed advanced practice. The ability to use enhanced skills such as physical examination and comprehensive clinical history-taking enabled pharmacists in both primary and community settings to take greater responsibility for the patient journey. The community pharmacy setting posed a number of limitations for pharmacists, not least the limited ability to practise advanced skills, although changes to the pharmacy contract and education and training are likely to

enhance the ability of community pharmacists to perform advanced practice.

[Taking advanced clinical practice to the streets: an evaluation of the benefits and challenges in homeless health care](#) Abstract only*

British Journal of Nursing, November 2021

Homelessness in the UK continues to rise. People who are homeless are more likely to have poor health and die early, and face multiple barriers to accessing health care. Ten years have passed since the Marmot review recommended action on these disparities. In the context of significant health inequalities, advanced clinical practitioners (ACPs) offer a different approach to homeless health care, providing complete episodes of care in complex situations and leading in integrating multiple agencies, service development and strategic advocacy. ACPs can use their expertise in this specialty to deliver education that raises awareness and reduces prejudice. Their research skills can identify gaps and expand the evidence base to improve practice at local and national levels. However, ACPs must promote their own roles, work closely with people with lived experience and be supported by their employers to embrace all four pillars of advanced clinical practice for the full benefits to be realised.

[Scoping the application of primary care advanced clinical practice roles in England](#) Abstract only*

International Journal of Health Governance, June 2020

This study aims to scope the profile and application of an advanced clinical practitioner (ACP) roles in primary care in the North of England and how these roles meet the requirements of Health Education England's (HEE's) ACP workforce capability framework. [...] Despite the introduction of HEE's ACP capability framework, there is inconsistency and confusion about the ACP role. The results indicated a need for standardisation of role definition and educational and practice requirements. The results

also suggested that some ACPs are not working to their full potential, while some staff who are employed as “gap-fillers” to provide routine clinical services perceive themselves as ACPs despite not working at the ACP level.

[Advanced Clinical Practitioners in Primary Care in the UK: A Qualitative Study of Workforce Transformation](#)

International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, June 2020

The study found a high degree of acceptance of the ACP role and affirmation of the important contribution of ACPs to patient care. However, significant variations in ACP education, skills and experience led to a bespoke approach to their deployment, impeding system-wide innovation and creating challenges for recruitment and ongoing professional development. In addition, a context of high workforce pressures and high service demand were causing stress and there was a need for greater mentorship and workplace support. System wide changes to ACP education and support are required to enable ACPs to realise their full potential in primary care in the UK.

[Whole systems approach: Advanced clinical practitioner development and identity in primary care](#) Abstract only*

Journal of Health Organization and Management, July 2019

Five themes emerged from the data – the need for: a standardised role definition and inclusive localised registration; access to/availability of quality accredited educational programmes relevant to primary care and professional development opportunities at the appropriate level; access to/availability of support and supervision for ACPs and trainee ACPs; a supportive organisational infrastructure and culture; and a clear career pathway.

Nursing

[Barriers and Enablers to Leadership in Advanced Practice Nursing: A Systematic Review](#)

International Nursing Review, May 2025

The review identified 24 barriers and 18 enablers to enacting leadership in advanced practice nursing roles, grouped into eight themes across four structural levels: healthcare system, organisational, team, and individual. Key themes included leadership capacity building, role clarity, development opportunities, resource allocation, and mentorship. Major barriers were unclear roles, limited leadership training, and resource constraints, while enablers included mentorship, leadership programmes, and organisational support.

[What is nursing in advanced nursing practice? Applying theories and models to advanced nursing practice – A discursive review](#)

Journal of Advanced Nursing, December 2024

Although advanced nurse practitioners identify themselves as nurses, there is limited use of nursing theory to conceptualize this new level of practice and to define their contribution to the multi-disciplinary team. It is noted that a holistic approach to personalized patient care, based on therapeutic relationships and effective communication, may help us identify the unique contribution of the advanced nurse practitioner.

[Book chapter] [The Evolution of the Nurse Practitioner Role and Practice in the United Kingdom](#) Abstract only*

In: Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Anesthetists: The Evolution of the Global Roles, June 2023

This chapter outlines the evolution and development of the advanced nurse practitioner role in the United Kingdom’s four countries. It identifies the successes and challenges that have occurred and the future developments that are likely. All four countries in the United Kingdom have now taken on a multi-

Evidence Brief: Advanced clinical practice

professional approach to the development of advanced practice roles which is unique globally but does add complexity when trying to understand the roles. This approach offers opportunities for nurses and allied health professionals to develop as advanced practitioners.

[Thesis] [The evolving role of the advanced nurse practitioner within UK general practice: A qualitative study on the views of employers, commissioners, GPs, nursing and NHS leaders, and advanced nurses](#)

University of Bath, June 2020

This study highlights the transitional nature of the ANP role towards a possible medical model of practice and a 'third space' between the nursing and medical professions. The introduction of multi-professional ACP training and the standardisation of advanced practice have the potential to improve access and care for general practice patients. Although without strong nursing leadership, recognition that the role is occupying a hybrid domain between the two professions, and a more robust nursing representation, both locally and nationally, there is a risk that the role is misunderstood by national policy makers in their quest to standardise advanced multi-professional practice, whilst not recognising the transition ANPs are experiencing.

Allied Health Professions

[Are UK pharmacists ready for advanced-level practice? A cross-sectional survey of self-assessed development needs](#) Abstract only*

International Journal of Pharmacy Practice, October 2025

A low proportion of pharmacists reported confidence across all outcomes (19.8%). The research domain had the lowest self-reported confidence (26.9%). Other domains had higher levels of reported confidence: professional practice (40.9%); leadership and management (43.8%); person-centred care and

collaboration (54.3%); and education (57.6%). The strongest predictors of overall confidence across the whole curriculum were completion of an advanced clinical assessment skills module, being a frequent prescriber, and self-identifying as an advanced practice pharmacist.

[National consensus on the capabilities that inform the role of advanced practice paramedics: A Delphi study](#)

Paramedicine, July 2025

The purpose of this Delphi process was to gain expert consensus on capabilities which could inform a national capability framework for APPs in Australia. Through four phases a list of 33 capabilities reached consensus across the domains of clinical practice, education, leadership and research. The findings of this Delphi process align with broader debates in the literature about the challenges of developing clear and consistent capability frameworks, particularly in the health sector, where ambiguity in language can be problematic.

[An exploration of stakeholder perceptions of physiotherapists undertaking community advanced clinical practice roles](#)

International Journal for Advancing Practice, July 2025

Advanced clinical practitioners (ACPs) with a physiotherapy background undertake a range of activities in the community setting. Both benefits and challenges of physiotherapists undertaking advanced clinical practice roles were identified. The benefits included improving the patient journey and an opportunity for career progression. However, prescribing was identified as a challenge and a barrier to the physiotherapist's role as an ACP.

Evidence Brief: Advanced clinical practice

[The extended and advanced clinical practices of radiographers worldwide: A scoping review](#)

Journal of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences, March 2025
This scoping review aimed to (1) map the global evidence on extended and advanced clinical practices (ACP) performed by radiographers, and (2) provide an overview of the pillars (clinical practice, leadership and management, education, and research) they relate to, as well as the radiology areas and the geographical location where they were developed.

[The Role and Development of Advanced Clinical Practice Within Allied Health Professions: A Mixed Method Study](#)

Journal of Multidisciplinary Healthcare, November 2020
This is the first comprehensive profile of ACP roles across AHPs and indicates that these roles are already having a positive impact on healthcare services and supporting new models of care. However, establishing the necessary infrastructure, standardization and governance for ACP roles across sectors, along with the career pathways, funding, sustainability and education, could increase impact in the future.

Research

[The role of advanced clinical practitioners in clinical research](#)

Abstract only*

British Journal of Nursing, March 2023

Advanced clinical practitioners (ACPs) contribute immensely to patient care, so there is consequently a need to develop and create a sustainable environment for advanced clinical practice in clinical research. To achieve this it is necessary to evaluate the current challenges to enable stakeholders and policymakers to take the appropriate measures in safeguarding the future of advanced clinical practice in clinical research. The ACP workforce presents an opportunity to enhance access to clinical research. This article looks at the role of ACPs in clinical

research and significant developmental milestones. The challenges of ACPs in clinical research are discussed, with an analysis of the needed interventions within the UK context. Strategies aimed at increasing the utilisation of the larger ACP workforce in clinical research are proposed.

[Research as part of the advanced clinical practitioner role](#)

Abstract only*

British Journal of Nursing, April 2022

Part of the role of the advanced clinical practitioner (ACP) is to improve patient care through research, but many ACPs lack confidence in this area. The clinical academic route may be a way of increasing ACPs' knowledge of research and making research an established part of the role once trained. Clinical academics work in a clinical role while leading research in a related field. A Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowship has allowed a nurse in one trust to study to become a clinical academic ACP, involving a clinical rotation and research training.

Competency Frameworks

[Multi-professional framework for advanced practice 2025](#)

NHS England, 2025

The framework describes the capabilities that underpin advanced practice roles and aims to provide a consistent understanding of them. It also offers guidance on implementing advanced practice that is relevant to:

- education providers developing and delivering training for the advanced practice workforce
- service providers integrating advanced practitioners to transform services
- employers recruiting, developing, and retaining advanced practitioners

Evidence Brief: Advanced clinical practice

- system-level leads planning workforce transformation to meet population needs

[Workplace supervision for advanced clinical practice: An integrated multi-professional approach for practitioner development](#)

NHS England, May 2025

Workplace supervision for advanced clinical practice provides practical and comprehensive guidance for workplace supervision of trainee advanced practitioners. It draws on an array of resources and advice, setting out clear pathways for both the trainee and supervisor.

[Multi-professional Practice-based Research Capabilities Framework](#)

NHS England, 2024

The purpose of the Multi-professional Practice-based Research Capabilities Framework is to:

1. facilitate transformation of health and care service delivery.
2. enhance outcomes and experiences of individuals and communities.
3. support health and care professionals to engage in, and with, research.

The Framework elaborates incremental research capability development as one of the pillars across four levels of practice. The focus is specifically on practice-based health and care professionals. The intended audience does not extend to colleagues in medicine and dentistry, for whom well-established guidance and structures already exist.

The Framework aims to highlight and promote active involvement in, and with, research as an integral component of

practice for all health and care professionals. This is the case regardless of the setting in which they work – whether primary, secondary or tertiary care, in the community, social care or elsewhere. The Framework outlines a common set of core capabilities for the diverse disciplines outside medicine and dentistry.

[Multi-professional consultant-level practice capability and impact framework: self-assessment tool](#)

NHS England, June 2023

What is consultant practice?

- Expertise in four domains necessary for enabling quality care from micro, to meso and macro levels of the system
- The key skill set for systems leadership and systems transformation aided by clinical credibility in own professional field
- Clinical academic role as an embedded researcher

We have co-developed the NHS England Consultant Practitioner Capability and Impact Framework. Its creation builds on 20 years of clinical development and related research across different professions. A process of co-creation with practitioners, aspiring practitioners, professional organisations and related workforce stakeholders across the UK has continued the refinement. Aligned to the capabilities is an impact framework to present examples of impact in relation to each domain. An important step in clearly outlining this level of practice.

[Advanced Practice in Midwifery Implementation Guide](#)

NHS England, March 2023

The implementation guide provides an overview of advanced practice in midwifery and offers insights into topics including education and training, workforce planning, governance, supervision, and career development. Links to other resources and case study examples are also included.

Evidence Brief: Advanced clinical practice

[Advanced Clinical Practice in Midwifery: Capability Framework](#)

Health Education England (The Centre for Advancing Practice), November 2022

This framework aims to help create the new midwifery roles required to meet the health needs of the population. Health Education England commissioned an analysis and recommendations, that formed the basis of this framework.

[Myth-busting: Advanced practice in mental health](#)

NHS England, June 2022

This resource aims to address some of the common myths surrounding advanced practice in mental health. This will help to improve understanding of the level of practice and the roles within it, alongside the education delivery and benefits to patients and mental health services.

[Advanced practice in mental health implementation guide](#)

NHS England, 2022

This implementation guide provides an overview of advanced practice in mental health. Offering guidance on education and training, workforce planning, governance, supervision, and career development. It is for health and care employers who work in a range of primary, secondary, community and emerging settings. As well as people in strategic teams who are supporting the implementation and development of advanced practice roles across mental health services.

[Older people advanced practice area specific capability and curriculum framework](#)

NHS England, 2022

This document details the core, generic clinical and specialty clinical capabilities in practice (CiPs) for advanced practice, relating to older people. Descriptors for each CiP are provided, as well as links to the multi-professional framework, and

examples of evidence that may be used to make an entrustment decision.

[Workplace Supervision for Advanced Clinical Practice: An integrated multi-professional approach for practitioner development](#)

Health Education England (The Centre for Advancing Practice), 2020

The provision and delivery of high-quality workplace supervision for practitioners developing in advanced clinical practice¹ is crucial for both professional and patient safety. It requires an integrated approach in which the developing advanced clinical practitioner (sometimes referred to as a trainee), is supported by multi-professional supervisors.

The developing advanced clinical practitioner/trainee should have a nominated 'Coordinating Education Supervisor' who supports the practitioner during the period of development and access to a variety of 'Associate Workplace Supervisors' who are matched to specified aspects of practitioner development across all the pillars of advanced clinical practice, (Clinical, Research, Leadership and Management or Education).

This guidance for workplace supervision of advanced clinical practice development will be useful for supervisors, employers, those driving workforce development and educators. There are seven fundamental considerations, set out in the diagram opposite, which underpin workplace supervision and ensure that both patient and professional safety are maintained during the practitioner's advanced clinical practice development.

Advanced Clinical Practice: Capabilities framework when working with people who have a learning disability and/or autism

Skills for Health, 2020

This framework describes the enhanced capabilities for advanced clinical practice delivered by AHPs and nursing staff in learning disabilities and autism services. This includes 'core capabilities' relevant to all advanced clinical practice, and also 'profession and role specific' capabilities based upon the person's profession and/or clinical area of practice.

The Ophthalmic Common Clinical Competency Framework

NHS England, 2019

This framework provides standards and guidance for the knowledge and skills required for non-medical eye healthcare professionals to deliver patient care. It is well known that there is a need for a systematic patient-centred approach to multi-disciplinary education and training in order to ensure standardised and recognised competences across all ophthalmic secondary care locations in the UK.