

Job Description

Job Title:	Clinical Practitioner
Reports to:	Urgent Care Clinical Nurse Lead
Place of Work:	Various locations across Suffolk
Working Pattern:	Weekday evenings, weekends and bank holidays

Role Purpose:

The Clinical Practitioner will be responsible for providing a safe, effective and high-quality clinical response to patients accessing the out-of-hours urgent care service across Suffolk. This is provided through base appointments and home visits.

The post holder will undertake comprehensive clinical assessments, identify patients' presenting needs, diagnose and provide appropriate treatment, management and onward care within their professional scope of practice and level of competence.

The Clinical Practitioner will play a key role in supporting safe and effective patient flow across urgent and emergency care services within Suffolk. They will work collaboratively with colleagues across the wider urgent care team to ensure the delivery of high-quality, patient-centred care.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Act as an experienced clinical practitioner, working autonomously within professional boundaries, organisational policies and agreed scope of practice.
- Provide comprehensive patient care, including history taking, clinical assessment, diagnosis, treatment and appropriate onward management.
- Demonstrate safe and effective clinical decision-making, using appropriate assessment, diagnostic and clinical management skills.
- Provide high-quality clinical care to patients accessing the urgent care service.
- Work collaboratively with the wider urgent care and multidisciplinary teams to ensure safe, effective and patient-centred care.
- Maintain professional competence through continuing professional development (CPD), keeping up to date with current clinical developments both locally and nationally, evidence-based practice and relevant professional requirements.
- Prescribe where clinically appropriate in line with evidence-based practice.
- Provide appropriate health promotion, preventative care and self-management advice to patients and their families/carers where relevant.

- Participate fully in professional appraisal and revalidation processes.
- Maintain accurate, contemporaneous and comprehensive clinical records in accordance with organisational and professional standards.
- Recognise and respond appropriately to patients whose clinical condition requires escalation, referral or transfer to another healthcare service.

Clinical Responsibilities

- Deliver high-quality personal clinical services that meet the National Quality Requirements for GP Out-of-Hours Services.
- Provide appropriate assessment, treatment and management to patients across all age groups and with a broad range of healthcare needs, working within the practitioner's level of competence.
- Undertake comprehensive clinical assessments and use sound clinical judgement to determine appropriate treatment and management plans.
- Refer patients appropriately to secondary care, specialist services, emergency services or other relevant healthcare providers in accordance with local policies, pathways and clinical protocols.
- Work within established urgent care treatment protocols, clinical guidelines and the approved medicines formulary.
- Identify patients requiring urgent or emergency intervention and ensure timely escalation to the appropriate service.
- Promote continuity, safety and quality of care through effective communication with patients, relatives, carers and other healthcare professionals.
- Maintain patient confidentiality and comply with all relevant professional, legal and organisational requirements.
- Contribute to the continuous improvement of urgent care services and support the delivery of safe, efficient and effective patient pathways.
- Respond to complaints/investigations in a timely manner if required.

Amending the job description: It is expected that as the organisation develops and changes it may be necessary to vary the tasks and/or the responsibilities of the post holder. This will be done in consultation with the post holder and it is hoped that agreement can be reached to any reasonable changes.

Confidentiality: The post holder must at all times maintain complete confidentiality of the material and information that they handle. Any matters of a confidential nature, or in particular, information relating to diagnoses and treatment of patients and individual staff records must not, under any circumstances, be divulged or passed on to any unauthorised person or persons. The post holder must respect patient named confidentiality in keeping with "Caldicott principles".

Data Protection: The post holder must at all times respect the confidentiality of information in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act. This includes, if required to do so, obtaining, processing

and/or using information held on a computer in a fair and lawful way, holding data only for the specified registered purposes and using or disclosing data only to authorised persons or organisations as instructed.

Policies & Procedures: The post holder will be expected to comply with all statutory legislation, the organisations governance framework and approved national and local policy. All employees are expected to comply with all of the organisations Policies and Procedures.

General: The post holder will be expected to be responsible for his/her continuing professional development and to take a proactive approach to maintaining personal and professional effectiveness in an evolving role.

The duties and responsibilities described in this Job Description are intended to be indicative but not exhaustive of the responsibilities of the post holder. As the organisation develops, the requirements of the job may change and the post holder is expected to adapt to these changes.

Health & Safety: Employees must share responsibility for abiding by health and safety policies and regulations, infection prevention and control policies and act in accordance with the Risk Management Policy. This includes compliance with The Health Act 2006 Code of Practice for the prevention and control of healthcare associated infection. In addition, be aware of the responsibilities placed on them by the Health & Safety at Work Act (1974) to ensure that the agreed safety procedure is carried out to maintain a safe environment for themselves, other employees and visitors.

Equal Opportunities Policy and Anti-Harassment: The post holder will immediately report to their line manager any breach or suspected breach of both equal opportunity and anti-harassment guidelines

Safeguarding Children: Everyone employed by the organisation regardless of the work they do has a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. When children and/or their carers use our services, it is essential that all child protection concerns are both recognised and acted on appropriately. You have a responsibility to ensure you are familiar with and follow the Suffolk child protection procedures and the organisations safeguarding policy to ensure you are equipped to carry out your duties effectively, you must also attend mandatory child protection training and updates at the competency level appropriate to the work you do.

Safeguarding Adults: Everyone employed by the Organisation regardless of the work they do has a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of vulnerable adults. When patients and/or their carers use our services, it is essential that all protection concerns are both recognised and acted on appropriately. You have a responsibility to ensure you are familiar with and follow relevant policies in relation to safeguarding vulnerable adults. To ensure you are equipped to carry out your duties effectively, you must also attend mandatory vulnerable adult protection training and updates at the competency level appropriate to the work you do.