**ADVANCED PRACTICE – THE WELSH PERSPECTIVE**

**This provides a chronological synopsis of the development of Advanced Practice in Wales since the inception of the Advanced Practice Framework in 2010.**

From the development of the Advanced Practice Framework (NLIAH 2010), delineating the 4 pillars of Advanced Practice (Advanced Clinical Practice, Research, Education, Leadership and Management), and Advanced Practice Portfolio, which was based on the Scottish toolkit (NHS Scotland 2008), the Framework was reviewed in July 2013 by the Workforce, Education and Development Services (WEDS), and it was found that the Framework had been sporadically implemented across the principality, with a limited number of health board and NHS Trusts in Wales.

It was recognised that promotion and use of the Framework would support the remodelling of the Welsh workforce, and guarantee the governance of Advanced Practitioners. Another study was conducted in 2014 by The Workforce Research Collaborative at Cardiff University, which identified similar issues. Following these reviews, some University Health Boards (UHB’s) within Wales conducted individual reviews of their Advanced Practitioners to implement the Framework.

During 2013-2014, £250k was provided by WG to support the development of the AP education within Wales, and a further £500k was provided in 2014-2015. However, the drawback is that there is no study leave/ staff release for development recorded in the provision.

A current Workforce, Education and Development Service (WEDS) group has reviewed Advanced Practice and the steering group is considering developing core principles for all HEI’s to adhere to, to make the employment of Advanced Practitioners more equitable, and for afford a degree of standardisation of the award of Advanced Practice.

Alongside these developments, **the Chief Executive Group for NHS Wales commissioned NWSSP’s Workforce, Education and Development Service (WEDS) to develop an all Wales standardised programme of education for autonomous management of patients with minor injuries. This is now being delivered by Agored Cymru.**

The Physician’s Associate role is also being developed in Wales, and a programme is offered at Swansea University

Individual University Health Board’s (UHB) have shown interest in developing academic assessment of AP portfolios, to provide academic credibility to assessment, and some are now developing their own assessment of the AP portfolios.

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