

Advanced Nursing Practice Ireland



Claire Tubbritt talks with Emily Lockwood about Advanced Nurse Practitioners in Ireland.

Emily Lockwood is a Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner for the management of Paediatric (from 18 months) and Adults in Emergency Care at University Hospital Waterford Ireland. She is also the Treasurer for the Irish Association of Advanced Nurse and Midwife Practitioners (IAANMP). Emily was instrumental in the development of the Advanced Nurse Practitioner Service in the Southeast Region being the First Accredited Advanced Nurse Practitioner outside of Dublin/Drogheda in Ireland in 2006, following 2 years of site and professional development and working as an Advanced Nurse Practitioner Candidate since 2005. A project officer - Karen Brennan (IAANMP Chairperson) in the Southeast Region in Ireland at that time was also a critical component of the success of the Advanced Nurse Practitioner development. Subsequently Emily has assisted in the site development and supervision of Advanced Nurse Practitioners Regionally and Nationally. She is currently studying for her PhD in University College Dublin, in the area of Advanced Nursing Practice in Emergency Care.

The National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing and Midwifery (NCNM) was instrumental in the foundation of Advanced Nursing Practice in Ireland. Developing Standards and Requirements for the development of sites which wished to develop the advanced nurse practitioner role and educational and clinical requirements. Many other countries have utilised the frameworks set down by the NCNM in Ireland. In 1996 in Ireland in St James Hospital Dublin an Emergency Nurse Practitioner piloted the concept of Advanced Practice by the name of Valerie Small. With Valerie being the first Advanced Nurse Practitioner accrediting with the NCNM at that time in 2002 in Emergency Care of Adults.

Recently the Nurse and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) updated the Standards and Requirements for Advanced Nurse Practitioner to Register with the Board. There are six core competencies, the facets of the ANP role include Researcher, Expert Practitioner, Anatomy in Clinical Practice and Pioneering and Professional Leadership.

Nurses and Midwives work autonomously within these roles to see and treat a wide presentation of cases.

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland's Standards and Requirements for Advanced Practice Nursing facilitate a career pathway for nurses who “*commit to the challenges and opportunities of achieving higher levels of capability.*” (NMBI 2017). Ireland now has ANP's working across for example: Emergency Care – Paediatric and Adults, Midwifery, Primary Care, Psychiatry, Neonatal, Oncology and most Acute care with the scope of practice influenced by their practice setting and service need. Recently the Department of Health (DoH) have supported the development of the Advanced Nurse Practitioner role to develop a critical mass of graduate, specialist and advanced practice nurses and midwives (DoH, 2017). Expectations are that practitioners will be proactive in identifying areas where expansion in scope will lead to improved patient outcomes. The generic scope of practice is particularly important to these roles. All Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioners also have independent nurse prescribing and ionising and radiation. The main core of these roles is a service need and this has to be demonstrated prior to site and registration with NMBI. The level of decision making and responsibility is recognised as Advanced Nurse Practitioners in Ireland are on the same pay scale as Assistant Directors of Nursing. They are accountable to the Director of Nursing (Professionally) and the Consultant/Medical Lead (Clinically) in the area of practice.

The Advanced Practice Nursing Model incorporates 6 domains which include:

- Professional Values and Conduct Competencies.
- Clinical Decision-Making Competencies
- Knowledge / Cognitive Competencies
- Communication / Interpersonal Competencies
- Management / Team Competencies
- Leadership / Professional Scholarship Competencies.

<https://www.nmbi.ie/NMBI/media/NMBI/Advanced-Practice-Nursing-Standards-and-Requirements-2017.pdf?ext=.pdf>

In terms of Registration, Nurses and Midwives must meet criteria set out by the Nursing and Midwifery Board Ireland NMBI. This criteria states that the practitioner must have a minimum of 7 years post registration experience, 5 of which are within their chosen field of practice. They must also be on the part of the NMBI Register for which they intend to practice with valid and relevant competencies and ongoing CPD. The practitioner must also be educated to Masters level of higher in area reflective of their chosen field.

In line with this, the NCNM and subsequently the NMBI the practitioner must demonstrate substantive hours supervised at Advanced Level Practice with the ability to exercise higher levels of judgment, discretion and decision making in the clinical area above that is expected of the nurse/midwife working at primary practice level of the clinical nurse/midwife specialist.

<https://www.nmbi.ie/Registration/Advanced-Practice/Registering-as-an-ANP-AMP>.

In contrast to the 4 pillars of ACP in the UK, the NMBI have additional competencies where practitioners are expected to demonstrate professional values and conduct competencies with reference to managing ethical dilemmas with emotional intelligence. These themes align with the 5 principles within the code of professional conduct and ethics which focuses on Respect for the dignity of the Person. Professional Responsibility and Accountability. Quality of Practice. Trust and Confidentiality and Collaboration with Others. These five principles are brought together within an overarching theme of patient safety.

Respect, Dignity, Collaboration, Using Discretion and Emotional Intelligence are themes which stand out in terms of setting the scene for the level of Advanced Practice Ireland where together with holding a register for ACP's with advanced clinical and leadership skills, the ANP is expected to demonstrate that little bit more.

Good communication is important to the realisation of the role and keeping an eye on the developments and successes of Ireland can be beneficial to the ACP role in the UK.

Claire Tubbritt would like to thank Emily Lockwood in sharing her experiences in of the ACP role in Ireland.