



Crohn's & Colitis UK Nurse Specialist Programme – Information for Managers

Programme Overview

Crohn's & Colitis UK is the leading UK charity for Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis (the two main forms of Inflammatory Bowel Disease or IBD).

The Crohn's & Colitis UK nursing programme meets our ambition to build a community of Crohn's & Colitis UK Nurse Specialists, bringing together clinical IBD teams and the charity.

Key Programme Objectives

The Programme will support IBD nurses to become 'Crohn's & Colitis UK Nurse Specialists'.

With charity support and funding, nurses can access one of two pathways:

MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (part-time, over three years)

or

those who already have an MSc in nursing or Advanced Clinical Practice can access and complete the RCN ALNP Credentialing programme.

In order to join the programme, nurses will need to meet a clear role description and successfully complete the application process.

What will creating a Crohn's & Colitis UK Nurse Specialists offer my service?

Becoming a Crohn's & Colitis UK Nurse Specialist is a unique opportunity to fund and support your nurse's education and development.

- We know that IBD nurses across the UK are working at an advanced level (running nurse led services, making autonomous decisions around diagnosis, prescription and management) and that this level of nursing is shown to have the greatest impact on patient outcomes.
- Health Education England recognise that advanced nursing practice requires Masters level education, and this programme will give each nurse the funding, resource and support to complete an MSc in advanced clinical practice and get the level of qualification to match and develop their practice.
- The programme will also allow the nurse to access all the skills, knowledge and resourcing that Crohn's & Colitis UK has, including specialist nursing leadership, patient information and support services, personalised care planning, patient involvement, communications and IT skills, research development and so much more.
- If the applicant already has an MSc in nursing or advanced clinical practice, the programme will support and fund them to formally credential as an Advanced Nurse Practitioner in IBD, through the RCN Credentialing process. This is currently the only national programme to register advanced nursing practice specific to the specialty.

What skills do applicants need?

We want nurses who are flexible, forward thinking and ambitious, who want to work with their peers and with Crohn's & Colitis UK to get the best for patients.

They must:

- Be an RGN, currently working as an IBD nurse specialist in the UK.
- Their role must include an element of advance nursing practice, e.g., running nurse-led clinics, prescribing, making autonomous decisions about diagnosis, treatments or follow up.
- Have experience of teaching and supervising other nurses.
- Have knowledge of recent advances in clinical IBD management.
- Have good communication and negotiation skills.
- Be able to problem solve and prioritise and work to deadlines.
- **For the RCN Pathway**, have an MSc in Nursing or Advanced Clinical Practice

The application process

For the MSc pathway, applicants will require;

- A completed application form with manager's signed agreement.
- Evidence of successful application for MSc ACP from an accredited university.

For the RCN Credentialing pathway, applicants will require:

- A completed application form with manager's signed agreement.
- Evidence of successful completion of an MSc in Nursing or Advanced Clinical Practice.
- Please ensure they have completed all the pre-requisite modules as part of their MSc or separately.

What will being a Crohn's & Colitis UK Nurse Specialist involve?

- Attending four community practice study days per year.
- Working to our role description, delivering Crohn's & Colitis UK key strategies alongside their NHS role with regular support from peers and programme leaders to measure outcomes.

What are the implications for me as an employer?

If your nurse is successful, we will ask that both you and your nurse sign an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) agreeing to their role as a Crohn's & Colitis UK Nurse Specialist for the duration of their post.

This document formally agrees;

- Funding agreements and arrangements
- Principles of collaboration
- Governance of the programme
- Branding for the role

More advice

If you have any further questions, please contact us directly at ibd nursing@crohnsandcolitis.org.uk