

Clinical Decision Making in Advanced Practice

Clare Butler and Emma Mellors, Oxford Brookes University

Aim

- ❑ This poster will showcase a module developed to support trainee advanced practitioners in comprehending the various factors that influence their advanced clinical decision-making.
- ❑ It offers the potential to improve patient outcomes, and enhance patient safety, while supporting professional confidence, personal growth, and opportunities for leadership and collaboration.

Background

- ❑ Advanced practitioners possess specialised knowledge and expertise in their respective fields, and manage patients with complex health conditions. This complexity necessitates making intricate decisions to provide high-quality holistic care.
- ❑ Clinical decision-making is a dynamic process that takes into account the complexity of patient care; incorporates evidence-based knowledge; and integrates patient values and preferences, while maintaining professional accountability.

Module

- ❑ The definition of advanced clinical practice explicitly includes complex decision-making, underpinned by master's level education (HEE 2017).
- ❑ A master's level module was therefore specifically developed to equip trainee advanced practitioners with the knowledge, skills and confidence necessary to interrogate and understand the complex factors that underpin decision making in the context of health and social care.
- ❑ The aim of the module, to embed critical thinking in clinical decision-making, and support advanced practitioners to navigate complexity, manage risks, and drive positive change, using a structured and empowered approach.



Curriculum

Data and Information

Interrogate, critically appraise and synthesise data to determine the most effective and appropriate management (Kerry *et al*, 2020). Exploring the relationship between correlation and causation (Lill Anjum *et al*, 2020).

Ethics, account ability and risk

Exploring frameworks for making morally and legally sound decisions, promoting patient advocacy, upholding professional standards, and ensuring patient safety (Tannahill, 2008).

Systematic approach

Using tools and systems for consistent and efficient patient care (NHS England, 2022), employing technology, algorithms, and predictive models for decision support (Grote *et al*, 2020), and justifying decisions and clinical reasoning.

Conceptual and theoretical frameworks

Apply systems thinking to comprehend healthcare complexity (Clarkson *et al*, 2018), as well as conceptualising overtreatment (Hoffman, 2022) and defensive medicine (Finucane, 2022). Considering behavioural thinking and human factors in decision-making (CHFG, 2022).

Decisions in action

Embracing uncertainty (Pomare *et al*, 2018), bridging the gap between theoretical planning, and implementation into practice. Questioning and challenging, to foster skills to manage unforeseen changes, and develop professional confidence and multiprofessional collaboration (Sharma *et al*, 2016).

Impact

- ❑ Empowering advanced practitioners to make complex and critical decisions in practice can lead to the best course of action for a patient's diagnosis, treatment, or management.
- ❑ By honing their decision-making skills, advanced practitioners can drive positive change in healthcare practice, and contribute to the overall advancement of their profession.