**Primary Care Roles**

There are lots of different clinical staff seeing patients at the practice. To help you understand how the various roles differ, we have provided some information on the different types of clinicians you might see at the practice.

**Advanced Clinical Practitioner / Advanced Nurse Practitioner**

Advanced Clinical Practitioners (ACPs) or Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs) are experienced, registered health practitioners. They have undertaken a masters degree (or equivalent) and work independently.

ACP/ANPs will see patients for a range of routine, urgent and complex health problems. They will provide advice and treatment options, including arranging further investigations, onward referral to secondary care and prescribing medication as appropriate.

**Physician Associate**

Physician Associates (PAs) are specifically trained healthcare professionals who deliver a valuable role in the practice, as part of the practice team. They work alongside GPs and ACP/ANPs providing medical care for routine and urgent health problems.

PAs will provide advice and treatment options, including arranging further investigations and onward referral to secondary care as appropriate.

They work collaboratively with support from the GP team, implementing agreed plans and organising prescriptions as required.

**Clinical/Practice Pharmacist**

Clinical Pharmacists do a very different job from Community Pharmacists. Our pharmacists work with, and alongside, the practice team, seeing patients for long term condition reviews, processing medication requests (both from patients and from secondary care) and undertaking clinical medication reviews.

Attending reviews and regularly checking your medications improves your wellbeing and quality of life and reduces the likelihood of conditions worsening or leading to other complications and side effects.

**Nursing Associate**

Nursing Associates (NAs) are a new support role working within the nursing team. Our Nursing Associates have gained, or are training towards, a Nursing Associate Foundation Degree awarded by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). They bridge the gap between healthcare assistants and registered nurses to deliver hands-on, patient-centred care. NA’s can perform more complex and significant tasks than a healthcare assistant, enabling our practice nurses to focus on more complex clinical work. The role is a vital part of the healthcare team and builds the capacity of the nursing team to enable them to deliver high-quality care.

**Social Prescriber**

We know that taking care of your health involves more than just medicine. A social prescriber will help you have more control over your health and will focus on what matters to you. Social Prescribers can support you in accessing services that work for you and will act as an advocate for you. Social Prescribing is a short term service available for anyone aged over 18yrs and can help with:

* Healthy lifestyles and active living, including stopping smoking
* Arts, music, outdoor and/or creative classes
* Befriending, counselling and other support groups
* Housing, benefits and financial advice & support
* Education and learning
* Getting involved in local groups and activities

**Health and Wellbeing Coach**

Health and Wellbeing coaches offer a person centred, integrated and holistic approach to improve the health and wellbeing of patients who are frequent attenders to their GP surgeries, and those with long term health conditions. Their health initiatives empower patients to change their behaviour and use physical activity to support people to improve their overall health and wellbeing, increase self-esteem and confidence, and enable them to participate in diverse activities.

They offer:

* 6 months free person-centred physical activity programmes
* Sessions delivered in local venues across South Derbyshire
* Social events/coffee and cake mornings
* Healthy eating advice
* Weight management advice
* 1-2-1 and group support

**Care Coordinator**

Care Coordinators play an important role within the practice offer support to patients and their families, including the frail/elderly, those with long-term conditions and those being discharged home from hospital. Care Coordinators provide support and care navigation across various health and care services. They work closely with the GPs and other primary care professionals to identify and manage a caseload of identified patients, making sure that appropriate support is made available to them and their carer’s and ensuring that their changing needs are addressed. This is achieved by bringing together all the information about a patient’s identified care and support needs and exploring options to meet these within a single personalised care and support plan, based on what matters to the person.

**Mental Health Practitioner**

Mental Health Practitioners working the surgery act in a ‘first contact’ role focusing on patient wellbeing and maintenance of mental health.

Patients presenting with new or existing mental health concerns will see the Mental Health Practitioner who provide assessment, support and/ or brief intervention and/ or signposting for further therapies. Mental Health Practitioners provide easier access to mental health services in a surgery setting.