



# Advanced Critical Care Practitioners



## What are advanced critical care practitioners?

Advanced critical care practitioners (ACCPs) are highly-trained clinicians who work as part of the multidisciplinary team within critical care.

The role is a new way of working for health professionals in critical care. It crosses professional boundaries within critical care teams, including medicine, nursing, technical, physiotherapy and clinical pharmacology. The role is designed to ensure that patients receive person-focused, timely and effective care.



## What do they do?

- ✔ Undertake a comprehensive clinical assessment of a patient's condition.
- ✔ Request and perform diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.
- ✔ Prescribe medications and fluids (subject to current legislation).
- ✔ Develop and manage a holistic plan of care.
- ✔ Perform invasive interventions and other practical skills within their sphere of competence.
- ✔ Provide ongoing clinical education and support to the multi-professional team.



## Training and qualifications

- Experience as a critical care nurse, or as a physiotherapist, clinical pharmacist or paramedic with appropriate critical care experience.
- Postgraduate MSc Level training according to the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine (FICM) curriculum leading to FICM ACCP membership.

## The facts

- There are approximately 130 qualified ACCPs across the NHS.
- ACCPs work as part of the medical rota and practice interchangeably with the medical trainees.
- ACCPs provide a new clinical pathway for nurses and AHPs with clear career progression.
- In general, trainee ACCPs are paid at band 6, and at Band 7 after qualifying (with clear career progression to band 8a and above).



## What are the benefits of having an ACCP in the team?



ACCPs enhance the provision of responsive, high-quality and timely critical care. The role helps to ensure stability in the workforce and continuity of care, while offering a sustainable solution to the current shortage of junior and staff grade doctors.

ACCPs are able to engage in medical training and development and there is a clear ongoing pathway for career progression, helping to retain senior staff with their associated skills and experience.

The role can help to ensure safe running of day unit activities, allowing senior trainees to take on areas of training which their workload might otherwise limit.

Furthermore, ACCPs bridge occupational boundaries ensuring a focus on holistic patient-centred care and can often improve communications between medical and nursing staff.

## Further Information

The Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine  
<https://www.ficm.ac.uk/accps/naccp>

NHS Employers  
[www.nhsemployers.org/maps](http://www.nhsemployers.org/maps)