

Job Title:	Specialist Heart Failure Practitioner – Band 6
Reports to (job title):	Clinical Lead for Heart Failure Service
Line Manager to:	Not Applicable for this position

## Job purpose

### Job Summary/Main Purpose

The Heart Failure Specialist Practitioner (HFSP) will support the Heart Failure Service in the management of patients with a diagnosis of heart failure in HCRG Care Group. The aims of the Service are:

- To improve the quality of life and death of patients with heart failure.
- To reduce the impact of symptoms through achieving maximum medical therapy.
- To reduce mortality and morbidity. HFSP will assess individual patient's needs to improve prognosis, symptom control and quality of life through developing holistic treatment plans, using Government and Local guidelines/Protocols and in agreement with the General Practitioner.

The HFSP will possess advanced nursing skills and will provide holistic care and therapeutic interventions.

### Base

This role is responsible for delivering high-quality Heart Failure care within community services, ensuring safe and effective clinical practice in accordance with operational protocols. The post holder will contribute to the leadership and management of the community heart failure team, promoting a patient-centred approach and multidisciplinary collaboration.

### This post is responsible for

- To identify high risk patients/ type of patients eligible for interventions provided by the HFS.
- To assess, plan and deliver clinical care appropriate to the needs of people with heart failure, through early detection of clinical deterioration and promoting patient wellbeing through self-care by optimising pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapies, drawing on the HFNS's expert knowledge, experience, and agreed protocols developed by the HFNS in partnership with primary and secondary care.
- To monitor the complex therapies used in heart failure care using agreed protocols/guidelines, in consultation with the patient's GP and accordance with patient's disease progression, incorporating palliative care needs.

- To provide advice for patients, their families and caregivers within the specialist area at diagnosis, during treatment programs and follow up. Promoting their wishes and beliefs and addressing their concerns.
- To facilitate the provision of multi-disciplinary care for patients within this specialist area by liaising with teams across specialties and the health community.
- To provide information to the patients, relatives and care givers about all aspects of treatment and daily life implications, offering them choice in their care management and addressing their concerns.
- To enable patient autonomy through an informed discussion making process.
- To work in partnership with GPs and other health professionals to address patients' health needs through goal setting, planning and delivering interventions that are based on best practice and clinical judgment.
- To empower and support health care professionals to provide appropriate care for patients in the setting most appropriate for the patients and their carers.
- To develop and update written information for patients and health care professionals.
- To monitor health, safety and security of self and others in own work area through ensuring own knowledge of appropriate national/local policies and procedures and ensuring that these are adhered to.
- To delegate/refer to other practitioners when this will improve health outcomes or when risks and needs are beyond own competence and scope of practice.
- To monitor and review the effectiveness of interventions with the patient and colleagues and modify this to meet the changing needs and established goals of care.
- To perform venepuncture, interpret results and adjust medication as required through liaising with the patient's General Practitioner, Nurse consultant, Hospital Consultant.
- To work within local policies when dealing with sharps and bodily fluids.
- To effectively meet the psychological needs of patients.
- To participate in end-of-life care.

## Key purpose

- To ensure own knowledge of appropriate NMC standards and HCRG professional guidelines and that these are applied to practice. .
- To be able to produce heart failure treatment plans according to national and local guidelines following interpretation of echo results and clinical history.

- Review patients both in practitioner-led community heart failure clinics and provide support through home visits for housebound patients.
- Working as a part of a team, be responsible for the education of patients with heart failure and their families.
- Working with staff in secondary care, ensuring effective discharge planning for heart failure patients making best use of resources, utilising best practice and optimising health outcomes.
- To foster good working relationships with other health professionals to ensure patients receive optimal care by developing and promoting policies and protocols which encourage a unified approach to heart failure in the local health community.
- To provide an effective interface between primary and secondary care thereby improving the management of heart failure.
- To provide professional help, support and education to patients and their relatives, which will enable them to effectively manage their illness.
- A key component of the post will be to undertake and participate in clinical audit to assess the effectiveness of the service..
- To participate in development of CQC standards.
- To attend and participate in monthly specialist nurse meetings.

**Proposed Job Plan** This role requires flexibility to meet the evolving needs of service delivery. Responsibilities may be adjusted in consultation with the post holder to reflect changing operational requirements.

**Outline of Provisional Job Schedule** The post holder will work within a flexible rota, ensuring comprehensive service delivery, including evenings, weekends, and Bank Holidays. The schedule will be reviewed regularly to align with service demands.

## Our values

Our values are our moral compass and core to our DNA. They underpin the way we deliver our services and treat those who use our services.

To many organisations values are just words which don't translate into reality of the day to day but our values flow through everything that we do, they define who we are, what we stand for and set the expectations of our colleagues, communities, customers and partners. They have been defined by our colleagues and have been integral to our journey so far and will be integral to our future as well.

We have three values which help us stand out from the crowd, not just because there's only three, but because they are unique to who we are. We care, we think, and we do.

Care	Think	Do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspire</li> <li>• Understand</li> <li>• Communicate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenge</li> <li>• Improve</li> <li>• Learn</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accountability</li> <li>• Involve</li> <li>• Resilience</li> </ul>

## Confidentiality and Information Security

As our employee you will be required to uphold the confidentiality of all records held by the company, whether patients/service records or corporate information. This duty lasts indefinitely and will continue after you leave the company's employment.

All information which identifies living individuals in whatever form (paper/pictures, electronic data/images or voice) is covered by the 2018 Data Protection Act and should be managed in accordance with this legislation. This and all other information must be held in line with NHS national standards including the Records Management: NHS Code of Practice , NHS Constitution and HSCIC Code of Practice on Confidential Information and should only be accessed or disclosed lawfully. Monitoring of compliance will be undertaken by the Company. Failure to adhere to Information Governance policies and procedures may result in disciplinary action and, where applicable, criminal prosecution.

## Information governance responsibilities

You are responsible for the following key aspects of Information Governance (not an exhaustive list):

- Completion of annual information governance training
- Reading applicable policies and procedures
- Understanding key responsibilities outlined in the Information Governance acceptable usage policies and procedures including NHS mandated encryption requirements
- Ensuring the security and confidentiality of all records and personal information assets
- Maintaining timely and accurate record keeping and where appropriate, in accordance with professional guidelines
- Only using email accounts authorised by us. These should be used in accordance with the Sending and Transferring Information Securely Procedures and Acceptable Use Policies.
- Reporting information governance incidents and near misses on CIRIS or to the appropriate person e.g. line manager, Head of Information Governance, Information Security Lead
- Adherence to the clear desk/screen policy
- Only using approved equipment for conducting business

## Governance

Clinical governance is a framework through which organisations delivering health and care services are accountable to continuously improving the quality of their services and safeguarding high standards of care by creating an environment in which clinical and other forms of care flourishes. Employees must be aware that clinical governance places a duty on all staff to ensure that the level of care services they deliver to patients is safe and high quality, and that they follow/comply with our policies and procedures.

## Registered Health Professional

All staff who are a member of a professional body must comply with standards of professional practice/conduct. It is the post holder's responsibility to ensure they are both familiar with and adhere to these requirements.

## Risk Management/Health & Safety

The post holder has a responsibility to themselves and others in relation to managing risk, health and safety and will be required to work within the policies and procedures laid down by the company. Staff are required to observe the Hygiene Code and demonstrate good infection control and hand hygiene.

Employees must be aware of the responsibilities placed on them by the Health & Safety at Work Act (1974) to ensure that the agreed safety procedures are carried out to maintain a safe environment for other employees, patients and visitors. It is essential to observe strict fire and security precautions at all times.

All staff must report accidents, incidents and near misses so that the company can learn from them and improve safety.

## Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Responsibility

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk of harm and expects all employees to share this commitment.

## Medicines Management Responsibility

### Nursing or registered healthcare professionals

Undertake all aspects of medicines management related activities in accordance within the company's medicines policies to ensure the safe, legal and appropriate use of medicines.

### Skilled non-registered staff

Undertake all aspects of medicines management related activities in accordance with the company's medicines policy where appropriate training has been given and competencies have been achieved.

## Policies and Procedures

All colleagues must comply with the Company Policies and Procedures which can be found on the company intranet.

## General

We are committed to serving our community. We aim to make our services exemplary in both clinical and operational aspects. We will show leadership in identifying healthcare needs to which we can respond and in determining the most cost-effective way of doing so.

We recruit competent staff that we support in maintaining and extending their skills in accordance with the needs of the people we serve. We will recognise the commitment from our staff to meeting the needs of our patients.

The company recognises a “non-smoking” policy. Employees are not able to smoke anywhere within the premises or when outside on official business.

## Equal Opportunities

It is the company’s intention to be an employer of choice and ensure that no job applicants or employees are unfairly disadvantaged on the grounds of gender, disability, race, ethnic origin, colour, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, trade union membership or any other factors that are not relevant to their capability or potential. To this end, the company has an Equality and Diversity policy and it is the responsibility of each employee to contribute to its success.

## Flexibility Statement

This job description is not exhaustive and may change as the post develops or changes to align with service needs. Any such changes will be discussed directly between the post holder and their line manager.

## Personal Specification

### Essential

- Registered Health Care Practitioner qualified to degree level.
- Expert knowledge in the treatment and management of Heart Failure.
- Knowledge of pharmacology in the management of long-term disease.
- Experience working in a multi-disciplinary team and providing care to patients with heart failure
- Strong interpersonal, written, and oral communication skills.
- IT literacy and ability to maintain accurate clinical records.
- Ability to work independently and flexibly in response to service needs.
- Commitment to ongoing professional development and service improvement.

### Desirable

- Further qualification in Heart Failure treatment or equivalent knowledge and experience.
- Non-medical prescribing qualification or willingness to work towards it
- Experience in community healthcare services.
- Teaching experience and ability to provide education to patients and colleagues.
- Experience in service development and implementation of innovative care strategies.

### Other Requirements

- Willingness to work across different Trust areas as required.
- Valid UK driving license with access to a vehicle for work purposes.
- Flexible availability, including evenings, weekends, and Bank Holidays, to meet service demands.

Employee signature

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Manager signature

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