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| Job title: | Practitioner- Nurse/ Paramedic | Reports to: | Urgent Care Lead (if minor illness) Head of Nursing (if Chronic Disease Management) | Grade: | 8 |
| Organisation Unit: | Nursing | Responsible for: | Direct Clinical Care | Working hours: | PT/ FT |

Job Purpose / Job Overview

The Nurse or Paramedic Practitioner is responsible for the autonomous assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and management of patients presenting with long term conditions, minor illnesses and acute conditions. This role involves working independently and as part of the multidisciplinary team to provide timely and effective care. The Practitioner ensures that patients receive high-quality, patient-centered care while also contributing to the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the practice.

Key Responsibilities
1. Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis

- Conduct comprehensive assessments of patients presenting with long term conditions or minor illnesses.
- Utilise advanced diagnostic skills to differentiate between minor illnesses and more serious conditions, ensuring accurate diagnosis and treatment.
- Take detailed patient histories, perform physical examinations, order and interpret diagnostic tests (e.g., blood tests, urinalysis) as necessary.
- Provide independent, expert management of long-term conditions.

2. Treatment and Management

- Develop and implement appropriate treatment plans for patients, including prescribing medications within the scope of practice.
- Provide advice on self-care, symptom management, lifestyle modification and the use of appropriate over-the-counter medications.
- Manage follow-up appointments where indicated to monitor patient progress and adjust treatment plans as needed.

3. Patient Education and Health Promotion

- Educate patients on the management and prevention of minor illnesses, including advice on lifestyle modifications and home care strategies.

Person Criteria
Qualifications

- Registered Nurse with a valid NMC (Nursing and Midwifery Council) registration or Registered Paramedic with a valid HCPC (Health and Care Professions Council) registration.
- Independent prescribing qualification annotated on professional register.
- History Taking and Physical Assessment qualification.
- Minor Illness and/ or LTC Qualification or demonstrable equivalent experience

Knowledge

- Must possess advanced knowledge and clinical expertise to effectively assess, diagnose, and manage a variety of minor illnesses or long-term conditions within a primary care setting.
- Proficiency in conducting thorough and systematic clinical assessments of patients presenting with long term conditions or minor illnesses.
- Ability to recognise and differentiate between minor illnesses and more serious conditions requiring further investigation or specialist referral.
- Competence in interpreting patient histories, physical examinations, and relevant diagnostic tests (e.g., blood tests, urinalysis, ECGs).

- Provide clear and concise information to patients about their condition/s, treatment options, and when to seek further medical advice.
- Promote health education and disease prevention strategies within the practice, supporting public health initiatives and improving patient outcomes.

4. Other

- Work collaboratively with GPs, other practitioners, practice nurses, and healthcare assistants to ensure a multidisciplinary approach to patient care.
- Refer patients to GPs or specialists when a condition requires more complex management or further investigation.
- Ensure all procedures are carried out in accordance with practice protocols and best practice guidelines.
- Perform relevant clinical procedures, such as administering injections, removing sutures, and conducting diagnostic tests.
- Maintain accurate and up-to-date patient records, documenting all clinical interactions, assessments, diagnoses, and treatment plans.
- Participate in clinical audits, quality improvement initiatives, and the development of practice protocols related to minor illness management.
- Manage patient flow effectively, ensuring that appointments are conducted efficiently while maintaining a high standard of care.
- Engage in continuous professional development to stay updated on best practices, clinical guidelines, and emerging trends in minor illness management.

- Comprehensive understanding of the presentation, pathophysiology, and management of common minor illnesses such as respiratory infections (e.g., colds, flu, CAP), gastrointestinal disturbances (e.g., gastroenteritis), dermatological conditions (e.g., eczema, rashes), and urinary tract infections.
- Comprehensive understanding of the presentation, pathophysiology, and management of long-term conditions.
- Familiarity with current clinical guidelines and evidence-based practices for treating these conditions.
- Knowledge of red flags and indicators that suggest a minor illness may be part of a more serious underlying health issue.
- In-depth knowledge of pharmacology relevant to long-term condition or minor illness management, including the mechanisms of action, side effects, contraindications, and interactions of commonly prescribed medications.
- The ability to safely prescribe medications within the scope of practice, including antibiotics, analgesics, and other symptomatic treatments.
- Awareness of antimicrobial stewardship principles to prevent the overuse of antibiotics and the development of drug resistance.

Experience

A minimum of 5 years of post-registration experience, with significant experience in primary care, chronic disease management, urgent care, or minor illness management.

Skills

- Advanced clinical assessment and diagnostic skills.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to educate and advise patients effectively.
- Ability to work autonomously and make independent clinical decisions within the scope of practice.
- Proficiency in using electronic health records (EHR) systems and other healthcare-related software.
- Excellent organisational and time-management skills, with a focus on efficiency and patient care.