

Claire Downs Advanced Nurse Practitioner

I am an Advanced Nurse Practitioner having completed my MSc Advanced Practice in 2011.

I started my nursing career in 1993, graduating from Nottingham University with a BN (Hons) and have benefited from working in a range of settings and roles across primary and secondary care to date, including Neurosurgery and High Dependency and have worked as a Respiratory Nurse Specialist, Community Matron/Clinical Lead and most recently as an ANP.

I am employed by Irwell Medical Practice, Bacup where I see patients in urgent 'on the day' slots, and also in routine pre booked appointment. I will see patients in their own homes when needed. As an ANP and Independent Non Medical Prescriber, I am able to see patients independently, assess, diagnose them, treat, arrange investigations/tests and refer as needed, within my scope of professional practice. As an ANP in Practice I assess and manage patients with a wide range of conditions although I have a particular interest in elderly medicine, frailty and polypharmacy. My clinical slots are 15 minute appointments. Patients are booked in to see me by our care navigators. I work closely with the wider MDT and represent our practice patients within the Integrated Neighbourhood Team meetings. I am also responsible for assisting with Practice workload – for example dealing with documents e.g. discharge summaries/consultant letters, and reviewing test results and taking action as needed. We are a training practice so I am involved in the supervision and training of students from a variety of disciplines – including student nurses and return to practice nurses, physician associates, MSc Advance Practice Trainees, Medical students and Fy2 doctors.



As an ANP, I have worked across all of the 9 GP practices in Rossendale and feel well placed to represent and advocate for the nursing teams within the PCN, CCG and wider. I am Locality Nurse Lead for Rossendale, working with both Rossendale East and West PCNs. I have a keen interest in clinical leadership and staff development. I have been Locality Lead Nurse since 2015 and during that time have enjoyed having scope to influence change, for example, being part of task and finish groups to extend the ANP care home service to include domiciliary visiting, and working with Radiology to devise a protocol to enable ANPs to request USS and Dexa after these privileges had been withdrawn. Within the PCN I am now take the lead on the Social Prescribing Service and have had the opportunity to drive our development in implementing group consultations within the PCN, although both of these pieces of work are in their early stages.

Within the Local PCNs, the Advance Nurse Practitioner role is already being utilised across a number of individual Practices and within our local services across Rossendale East and West PCN, which provides ANP review to care home residents and the housebound. There is certainly scope to expand the ANP role into all practices and to include more crossover.