

## Advanced Clinical Practitioner

Advanced Clinical Practitioners (ACP) come from a range of professional backgrounds such as nursing, pharmacy, paramedics and occupational therapy. They are healthcare professionals educated to master's level and have developed the skills and knowledge to allow them to take on expanded roles and scope of practice caring for patients.

Graeme is Bolton GP Federations' first Advanced Clinical Practitioner to graduate with a distinction!

### About Graeme

I graduated with a master's degree from the School of Pharmacy at the University of Bath in 2006. After completing my mandatory pre-registration year and exams, I started practicing as a pharmacist in 2007. Since then, I have held various pharmacy roles in the community and hospital sectors. I worked in a community pharmacy for eight years as a pharmacist manager for a large multiple.

Having grown familiar with the role an opportunity arose for work within the hospital sector which I was keen to experience, and this resulted in me spending a further five years in the hospital sector as a pharmacist. I have always been the type of pharmacist that wants to expand my role and introduce as much variation as possible into the role as pharmacists have a wide and varied skill set which can sometimes be underutilised.

### What made you undertake the ACP training?

This was something that I had always wanted to do and with changes occurring within primary care and the introduction of the Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service, the opportunities for pharmacists to work within multidisciplinary teams within primary care were greatly increased. It was an opportunity I saw as a step forwards, where I could combine my experience within the community and hospital sectors; my understanding of these roles helped me settle into my role within primary care.

My prior knowledge and experience enabled a deeper understanding of how the three differing areas of primary and secondary care, alongside community pharmacy services, can integrate for the benefit of patient. After six months of familiarising myself with my role and how I could utilise my skills within primary care, I was approached to see if I would be interested in enrolling on the ACP degree programme.



Graeme King

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## Learner Feedback

As a father of two young children, I had some slight trepidation about embarking on a university degree programme and revisiting formal education after a long period of absence from that style of learning environment. However, embarking on this process of becoming an Advanced Practitioner is the single best decision that I have made in my career. Anyone who thinks it may not be for them should reconsider the benefits for both patients and for them as a professional; I have found the experience of becoming an ACP to be rewarding on a personal and professional level.

Regardless of clinical background or base specialism, the ACP programme is one that can enhance skills already possessed and introduce new themes and understanding to elevate your practice. The enhanced clinical and diagnostic skills and deeper knowledge of disease states have been invaluable in my practice and enable me to work autonomously within my sphere of competence. This continues to grow thanks to the supportive learning environment and the guidance and support of more experienced colleagues such as GPs and other Advanced Practitioners within the multidisciplinary team and my employer.

## Practice Feedback

As a practice pharmacist, Graeme was already a very valued member of our Primary Care team both in terms of his professionalism, personal commitment and his approachable and helpful personality.

Whilst training for the ACP course, Graeme has shown himself to be a very fast and diligent learner. He has proven himself to be ready to take on challenges, applying all the new learning he has undertaken.

With his hands on approach, he has seen many patients under supervision, and I have no doubt he will practice safely in his soon to be approved job role of ACP. As his clinical supervisor, I would have kept him for all his clinical sessions at our own health centre.

# Thank you Graeme!