

Foundation Job Description

Foundation School		
LNR		
Grade (F1 or F2)	Specialty <i>If General (Internal) Medicine OR General Surgery, please provide a sub-specialty</i>	Sub-specialty (if appropriate) <i>If General (Internal) Medicine OR General Surgery, please provide a sub-specialty</i>
F2	Palliative Care	Inpatient
Trust		Site
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust		Hospital wide NGH
Main Duties		
<p>This new post is a rare and excellent opportunity to work with the inpatient Palliative Care Team at NGH. It will provide a broad generic education whilst supporting the hospital Palliative Care team.</p> <p>You will join the nurse-led service, working with the Palliative Medicine Consultant and the Palliative Care Clinical Nurse Specialists, seeing hospital inpatients with specialist palliative care needs at any stage in their illness journey, from diagnosis to death. The post will provide hard-to-obtain clinical experience that would be very attractive on the CV of any doctor interested in pursuing specialist training in palliative medicine. It will also hugely improve many generic skills, of particular relevance to general practice, oncology and haematology and in fact any medical specialty.</p> <p>Each day starts with a multidisciplinary discussion of the caseload, followed by caseload allocation between team members. Most of the working day is spent in bedside assessments, with referrals coming in from any adult inpatient wards within the hospital. About 50% of patients on the caseload have index diagnoses of advanced incurable malignancy and 50% non-malignant index diagnoses. The commonest of these comprise COPD, interstitial lung disease, heart failure, end-stage renal disease, Parkinson's disease and a range of neurodegenerative conditions. About 50% all deaths in the locality take place in this hospital. In recent years, almost every non-ITU/HDU hospital inpatient death from COVID has received input from the hospital palliative care team. The hospital palliative care team can help with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex symptom management. • Rationalization of complex pharmacological regimens. • Advance Care Planning. • Hospital discharge planning (with an emphasis on suitably supported rapid discharge when possible). • Referral to community based specialist palliative care services. • Initiation of the AMBER Care Bundle. • Use of the End of Life Care Plan. • <p>An initial holistic assessment visit can typically takes at least an hour to perform and the average number of patient visits per referral is about 4. Excellent communication and teamworking skills are crucial to the provision of a high quality service. Over 30% our prescribing advice is not covered by drug product licences, and it takes time to truly master the relevant knowledge base. Because of the highly specialist nature of our work, you will start the attachment in an exclusively observational capacity so that you can be taught the basics of what we do. After a period of time, you will be able to perform initial assessments independently, before discussing them with a more experienced team colleague to jointly formulate suitable management plans. As the attachment continues, further professional autonomy can be negotiated with the consultant in line with your demonstrable progress in understanding the job. It should be perfectly possible to arrange ample opportunity to visit the local hospice and witness the services provided in that setting.</p>		

The team works very closely with the hospital Marie Curie End of Life Service, the hospital Macmillan Social Workers, the hospital chaplaincy team, the LPOP team, ward pharmacists, a wide range of inpatient clinical support services, and the full range of specialist palliative care services delivered from Cynthia Spencer Hospice in Northampton and Cransley Hospice in Corby.

This post involves considerable opportunity to hone your communication skills and practice basic bedside clinical examination skills and therefore it should be possible to undertake a range of required work place based assessments.

There will be an opportunity to teach or supervise 3rd year medical students undertaking the Core Medicine Block from Leicester Medical school during the rotations.

Any on-call responsibilities associated with this post will be integrated with other general medical on call rotas provided by FY2, IMT1, GPvTS, IMT2, and will not include any palliative care responsibilities as these are covered using a separate arrangement. This will be part of a 1 in 11 rota as per excel template attached to this document.

Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
1					off	Ward cover	Wards
2	off						
3							
4				off			
5	off	off					
6							
7					off	On take	On take
8			off				
9							
10					off		
11							

Duty	Name	Pattern	Start	Finish	Duration
A	NWD	NWD	09:00	17:00	08:00
B	Night	Full Shift	21:00	09:30	12:00
C	On Take	Full Shift	08:30	21:30	13:00

Example Timetable

For example: W/R (Outpatients), MDT, Meetings, X-Ray Conference etc.

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
AM	Morning handover and case allocation, Supervised ward reviews	FY2 Teaching (When there is no FY2 teaching, there is a weekly oncology inpatient MDT meeting followed by the weekly hospital inpatient palliative care MDT meeting)	Weekly haematology inpatient MDT meeting, Morning handover and case allocation, Supervised ward reviews	Morning handover and case allocation, Supervised ward reviews	Morning handover and case allocation, Supervised ward reviews
Lunchtime					
PM	Supervised ward reviews. (Possibility for a weekly tutorial)	Supervised ward reviews.	Supervised ward reviews.	Supervised ward reviews, Weekly CUP MDT meeting, Weekly lung cancer MDT meeting	Self-development time

Educational Activities:

All FY2 will have a trained and experienced Educational Supervisor that stays with them for the whole of their FY2 year and a Clinical Supervisor for each of their 4/12 attachments.

Patient referrals provide opportunity for in-depth case discussions with good continuity of care arising from daily reviews.

The mandatory F2 teaching occurs weekly on Tuesday mornings and is protected time off the ward and bleep free. The FY2 teaching programme covers a wide range of the curriculum over the three rotations.

All junior doctors will have the opportunity to complete supervised Quality Improvement projects of their own choosing. They will be supported in this by their Educational and Clinical Supervisors and the well equipped QiP department.

The medical education department comprises of medical education, simulation resuscitation and quality improvement academia. All junior doctors with a passion for education and/or quality improvement can work with the medical education team as faculty and support the delivery of education programmes for medical students and quality and safety programmes. All our faculty can attend an in house Train the Trainer course free of charge and are also offered a peer to peer review on their teaching sessions from one of the expert medical education senior management team.

Our STEP - Student Tutoring & Education Programme – is available for all medical students on placement at NGH. STEP is a programme aimed at providing additional formalised learning opportunities for medical students in order to enhance the educational experience already gained during their placements.

As part of STEP, teaching sessions are held once weekly in small groups (2-3 students). We encourage all FY doctors to become tutors on STEP and lead sessions.

Other Comments (if appropriate):

Our group is made up of Northampton General Hospital (NGH) NHS Trust and Kettering General Hospital (KGH) NHS Foundation Trust and was formed in 2020.

We deliver acute services from two main sites: Northampton General Hospital and Kettering General Hospital. We also provide care at several satellite locations including in Corby, Wellingborough, Irthlingborough, Danetre and GP facilities.

Both our hospitals are acute hospitals providing 24-hour emergency care.

We offer a full range of district general hospital care as well as some specialist services: NGH provides specialist cancer, vascular and stroke care for the county and KGH provides emergency cardiac care for the county. In total we have around 1,390 beds with 600 at KGH and 790 at NGH. We serve a population of approximately 900,000 people across the county and employ over 9,000 staff, making us one of the largest employers in Northamptonshire.

All our divisions are committed to doing things better with more efficiency as we update, modernise and advance. We have strong partnerships with University of Leicester and University of Northampton and are supported by the East Midlands Clinical Research Network.

Our excellence values are, respect, compassion, integrity, courage and accountability.

Disclaimer: Please note that the placement information provided is subject to change.

