JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE OF THE POST: Clinical Nurse Specialist (Hospital)

ACCOUNTABLE TO: Trinity CNS Manager

RESPONSIBLE FOR: Providing specialist palliative care advice and Support to patient, families, carers and other primary health and social care teams in the acute trust.

OVERALL PURPOSE: To provide specialist palliative care knowledge, expertise and support to patients, carers, their GPs and all other health care professionals to maximise the patients’ quality of life.

JOB PURPOSE: To facilitate the integration of palliative care services into the Acute trust to support health care professionals to achieve the best quality of care for patients referred to trinity palliative care services.

To act as a resource for professionals and non-professionals involved in palliative care within a palliative setting.

MANAGEMENT/LEADERSHIP ROLE

- Demonstrate leadership in influencing specialist nursing practice to nursing, medical and other health care professionals.
- To liaise and work closely with the Trinity Clinical Nurse Specialist Manager and the Hospital Palliative Care Consultants of matters relating to Specialist Palliative Care Nursing to ensure that the service remains efficient and effective.
- Set and maintain high standards of patient care in Specialist Palliative Nursing.
- Be responsible for his/her own caseload of patients requiring Specialist Palliative Care, ensuring effective use of resources.
- Support the development of new ways of working which includes consultant outpatient provision, Non-medical prescribing, and education.
- Support the development of 7 day face to face contact
- Be involved in audit of patient care, and service developments and participate in research programmes to promote high standards of Specialist Palliative Care.
• To be involved in and monitor relevant research developments and disseminate the findings to patients, relatives and colleagues in the extended Health Care Team as appropriate to promote effective patient care.

• Attend staff meetings both in the Hospice and community, communicating information as appropriate.

• Be an active member of the Complex case discussions supporting the work of the End of Life Project steering group accordingly.

• Work in a professional manner at all times.

• Keep accurate records of visits and mileage, submit statistical returns and compile reports as required.

• Maintain confidentiality in all matters.

• Be a co-operative and supportive member of the Trinity staff team, discuss any issues in the post holder’s workload that may affect other members of the Trinity team and identify such to the Line Manager.

• Support and mentor new members of staff.

CLINICAL SKILLS

• Facilitate ‘on the day’ rapid access to specialist palliative care.

• Manage a caseload of patients with advancing disease who require Specialist Palliative Care.

• Undertake V300 non-medical prescribing course and actively prescribe within competencies.

• Undertake Clinical examination training to facilitate and enhance complex patient assessments.

• To undertake advanced clinical holistic assessments with patients requiring palliative care and contribute to meeting their holistic care needs.

• Undertake training in psychological care at level 2.

• Undertake supervision to discuss “psychological case management” advice.

• Seek clinical advice from hospital palliative consultant as appropriate for complex clinical scenarios.

• Use highly developed specialist knowledge and skills to advise and influence the management of complex symptom control, psychological, emotional and spiritual issues or social needs assisting all health professionals as appropriate to maximise the patient’s quality of life.

• Use advanced communication skills to enhance patients and carers to make informed choices regarding their care and management.

EDUCATION

• Develop and maintain up to date training programme in line with the local symptom management guidelines.
• Take the lead in facilitating and delivery of education sessions in accordance with the agenda of the acute trust, liaising with the clinical cancer and and of life lead.

• Deliver symptom management training to generalist colleagues both in the acute trust and organised at the Education and Learning centre based at Trinity.

• Educate the family in helping them to give care and support to the patient.

• Support pre and post registration students, staff from other Hospices, Macmillan teams, Community and Hospital nurses undertaking clinical placements.

• Educate the general public on the role of Palliative Care Services in the community, by giving talks and attending functions.

• Develop computer skills to maintain records and collate statistics.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

• Support the management of advanced palliative care symptoms by providing support and specialist advice to both the patient and carers, liaising with other health care providers as required.

• To liaise with other health care providers, General Practitioners, Community Nurses, Community Matrons, Social Workers, hospital staff and other members of the Trinity Clinical Nurse Specialist Team involved in a patients care.

• Triage referrals from Hospital Consultants, doctors and other Clinical Nurse Specialists to provide the most appropriate care for the patient, referring to other health professionals as required.

• Be responsible for his/her own caseload of patients requiring Specialist Palliative Care, ensuring effective use of resources.

• Demonstrate enhanced communication skills, when dealing with patients and families.

• Advise and liaise with doctors and ward staff regarding pain and complex symptom management, care needs, admission to Hospice or referral for appropriate care.

• Assess, develop, implement and evaluate programmes of care for patients with palliative care needs in areas such as complex pain and symptom management.

• Advise and support the Health Care Teams in their generalist palliative care role.

• Advise and liaise with the hospital discharge team about patients requiring Specialist Palliative Care intervention.

• Assess and prioritise patients for admission to the Hospice, presenting cases timely to the admissions board.
- Understand family dynamics and give specialist emotional and psychological support to the patient and carers as required.
- Liaise with Hospice Chaplains and the Clergy in order to provide spiritual support when needed.
- Following bereavement, provide continued support to relatives and carers, identify problems and refer them for appropriate care to the Linden Centre.
- Advise regarding contacting and referral to appropriate agencies, for financial assessment and support, including assessment for grants available from the Macmillan Cancer Relief.
- Keep accurate and up to date nursing records of each patient, ensuring records are kept in line with professional standards utilising electronic patient record facility (EMIS)
- Report and discuss any problems which may occur with Trinity Clinical Nurse Specialist Manager and Hospital Consultant as appropriate.
- Liaise with and refer as appropriate to voluntary services.
- Participate in regular meetings with the Trinity Clinical Nurse Specialist Hospital Palliative Care Team and Trinity Clinical Nurse Specialist Manager to facilitate team communication.
- Assess and refer appropriately to other Hospice services with the consent of the patient.
- Act as patient advocate in often emotionally charged situations involving other health care professionals, family and carers.

**PERSONAL**

- Be responsible for own well being
- To join with other staff in the promotion of the overall palliative care service as appropriate.
- Comply with Nursing and Midwifery Council regulations for professional registration and practice.
- Ensure awareness of and act in accordance with Health and Safety at work procedures.
- Use opportunities to extend clinical and professional knowledge. Take responsibility for own professional development, identifying training and development needs to line manager.

This job description is not exhaustive and is subject to review in conjunction with the post holder and according to future changes/developments in the service.

Trinity operates a strict ‘no smoking’ policy

**Staff members signature**

**Managers signature**