Role of the Arrhythmia Nurse

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Arrhythmia nurses

Wear many hats
Arrhythmia Nurses

- Different specialty roles
- Services developed dependant on local service needs
- Cardioversion nurses
- ICD nurses
- Electro-physiology nurses
- AF nurses
- Arrhythmia nurses
- Arrhythmia Care Co-coordinators (technicians)
Experienced cardiology nurses
Have undertaken additional training
History taking/physical examination
Completed competencies
Take consent for procedures
Non medical prescribing
Arrhythmia Nurse Role

- Guidance
- Chapter 8 National Service Framework for Arrhythmias and Sudden Cardiac Death (2005)
Chapter 8 NSF

- 3 Quality Requirements
  - Patient Support
  - Diagnosis and Treatment
  - Sudden Cardiac Death

- 20 markers of good practice
Patient Support

Aim: to improve the emotional and practical support offered to patients with arrhythmias and their families

Quality requirement: people with arrhythmia receive timely and high quality support and information, based on an assessment of their needs.
How?

- Appropriately trained staff
- Assess needs
- Pre-assessment/post procedure care
- Information leaflets/education
- Point of contact named person
- Support groups
- Access to psychological support
Diagnosis and Treatment

Aim: to ensure expert assessment of a person in whom an arrhythmia is suspected and that an appropriate and clinically effective pathway is followed.

Quality requirement: people presenting with arrhythmias, in both emergency and elective settings, receive timely assessment by an appropriate clinician to ensure accurate diagnosis and effective treatment and rehabilitation.
How?

- Nurse led arrhythmia/AF/syncope/cardioversion clinics as part of multidisciplinary arrhythmia services
- Review of patients presenting acutely to A/E or MAU
- Assessment of patient
- Request of diagnostic testing
- Following national guidance (AF NICE)
- Coordinating procedures
- Pre-assessment clinics for ablation/ICD
- Referral to specialist
Additional roles

- G.R.A.S.P.-AF tool kit
- Support and advise other arrhythmia nurses
- Providing education to other health care professionals
- Help towards meeting 18wk pathway
- Increasing awareness, supporting national Arrhythmia Awareness week
- Support to primary care, GPs, Community Matrons
What Benefits does the role have?

- Point of contact for patients and relatives
- Provide quality support and information
- Help to improve arrhythmia care services
- Coordination of patient along care pathway
- Nurse led Arrhythmia clinics can provide reassurance and diagnosis
- Provide care along recognized guidelines (NICE NSF)
Is key part of role
Thank you

Any Questions

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