The Role of The Consultant, The Doctor and The Nurse

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Objective

• To provide an overview of your role as a junior doctor and introduce you to roles of the staff you will be working alongside.
1.2 million people make up the NHS workforce

- 38,000 Consultants
- 147,000 Doctors
- 375,000 qualified nursing staff
Hierarchy of the medical team

Doctors in training

- Foundation Year 1 (F1)
- Foundation Year 2 (F2)
- Specialist Registrar
- Staff Grade
- Associate Specialist
- Consultant

‘Career doctors’ (not in training)

Non-training role

Locum appointment for service (LAS)
The Consultant

• Consultants are doctors who have undergone higher specialty training (typically 6-8 years following registration) to enter the Specialty Register.
The role of the Consultant

• Consultants work primarily in the delivery of expert clinical care (often within a team).
• Their workload commonly involves managing the more complex type of cases (in terms of diagnosis and management decisions).
• They also often manage apparently simple cases which have a high incidence of complications in more inexperienced hands.
The role of the Consultant

Consultants are also involved in a variety of other roles including -

• General running of departments
• Making managerial decisions
• Teaching / Training
• Research
• Developing local services
Role of the junior doctor

• Specific tasks undertaken by junior doctors depend on their specialty - a surgeon's daily tasks are significantly different from those of a doctor working in the Emergency Department (ED) or a general physician.
Role of the junior doctor (cont)

• The following responsibilities are likely to be carried out on a daily or weekly basis, regardless of the doctor's specialty -
  – Monitoring and providing general care to patients on hospital wards and in outpatient clinics.
  – Admitting patients requiring special care followed by investigations and treatment.
  – Examining and talking to patients to diagnose their medical conditions.
  – Carrying out specific procedures, e.g. performing operations and specialist investigations.
Role of the junior doctor (cont)

– Making notes and preparing paperwork.
– Writing prescriptions.
– Working with other doctors as part of a team, either in the same department or within other specialties.
– Liaising with other medical and non-medical staff in the hospital to ensure quality treatment (eg radiology requests)
– Promoting health education.
– Teaching other junior doctors and medical students.
– Undertaking audit activities.
What does a nurse do?

• A nurse is a healthcare professional who is focused on caring for individuals, families, and communities, ensuring that they attain, maintain, or recover optimal health and functioning.

• Nurses are capable of assessing, planning, implementing, and evaluating care independently of doctors.

• Some nurses undergo additional specialty training within their clinical area (eg Emergency Nurse Practitioners, Advanced Care Practitioners, Specialist Nurses)
Hierarchy of the nursing team

- Health Care Assistants
- Staff Nurse
- Sister / Charge Nurse
- Matron / Lead Nurse
The Matron / Lead Nurse

The main roles of the Matron / Lead Nurse include:

- To ensure the highest standards of nursing care are delivered by providing leadership to professional and direct care staff.
- To ensure that administrative and support services are designed and delivered to achieve the highest standards of care.
- To provide a visible, accessible and authoritative presence in ward settings – someone to whom patients and their families can turn for assistance, advice and support.
The Nursing Sister

- The main roles of Nursing Sisters include –

  - To be a clinical nursing expert.
  - To manage and lead the ward nursing staff team and the ward environment.
  - To provide education (for nurses, other health care professionals, patients and carers).
Staff Nurses

• The main roles of Staff Nurses include –

• The assessment of a patient’s needs and to plan, implement and evaluate evidence-based nursing care;
• To provide healthcare advice through educating patients, carers and families
• To carry out clinical nursing procedures.
• To work with other members of the health and social care team
• To supervise other junior nursing staff and students.
• To contribute to the delivery of good practice by participating in teaching and learning opportunities.
Health Care Assistants (HCAs)

- The main roles of HCAs include –

  - Washing and dressing of patients.
  - Serving patients meals and assisting with feeding when necessary.
  - Helping people to mobilise.
  - Assisting patients to go to the toilet when necessary.
  - Bed making
  - Generally assisting with patients' overall comfort
  - Monitoring patients' conditions by taking clinical observations (pulse, BP, temperature etc)
Health Care Assistants (HCAs)

- Some HCAs also undergo additional training so that they can perform other duties such as performing ECGs, intravenous cannulation, phlebotomy etc.
• Any questions?