

## Crohn's & Colitis UK Nurse Specialist Programme – information for managers

### Programme Overview

Crohn's & Colitis UK is the leading UK charity in the battle against Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis (collectively known as Inflammatory Bowel Disease or IBD).

Central to our strategy is our belief that all those living with IBD should have access to a, suitably qualified, IBD nurse specialist.

The Crohn's & Colitis UK nursing programme meets our ambition to build a community of Crohns & Colitis UK Nurse Specialists, bringing together clinical IBD teams and the charity to make a positive difference to people's lives today and a world free from Crohns and Colitis tomorrow.

### Key Programme Objectives

The Programme will aim to work alongside already practicing IBD nurses, to create 'Crohns and Colitis UK IBD Nurse Specialists'.

With charity support & funding nurses will access one of 2 pathways;

MSc Advanced Nursing Practice (part-time, over 3 years)

Or for those already holding MSc in nursing or advanced nursing practice (ANP), the RCN ANP Credentialing programme.

Each pathway will be resourced and supported by Crohn's & Colitis UK.

In order to join the programme, nurses will meet a clear person specification and application process.

We aim to register 10 nurses through each pathway per year.

### What will creating a Crohn's & Colitis UK Nurse Specialists offer my service?

Becoming a Crohn's & Colitis UK Nurse Specialist is a unique opportunity to fund and support your nurse's education and development.

- We know that IBD nurses across the UK are working at an advanced level (running nurse led services, making autonomous decisions around diagnosis, prescription and management) and that this level of nursing is shown to have the greatest impact on patient outcomes.
- Health Education England recognise that advanced nursing practice requires Masters level education, and this programme will give each nurse the funding, resource and support to complete an MSc in advanced practice and get the level of qualification to match and develop their practice.
- The programme will also allow the nurse to access all the skills, knowledge and resourcing that Crohn's & Colitis UK has, including specialist nursing leadership, patient information and support services, personalised care planning, patient involvement, communications and IT skills, research development and so much more.
- Crohn's & Colitis UK is also keen to develop nursing research and 2 of our programme places will be specifically aimed at nurses undertaking original research as part of their dissertation. If you wish to

develop your departments research skills, then extra support and resourcing will be available from our Research team.

- If the applicant already has an MSc in nursing or advanced nursing practice, the programme will support and fund them to formally credential as an Advanced Nurse Practitioner, through the RCN Credentialing process. This is currently the only national programme to register advanced nursing practice.

### What specifications do applicants need?

We want nurses who are flexible and forward thinking and ambitious, who want to work with their peers and with Crohn's & Colitis UK to get the best for their patients.

They must be;

- an RGN, currently working as an IBD nurse specialist in the UK.
- Their role must include an element of advanced nursing practice, or the potential to develop advanced practice e.g. running nurse led clinics, prescribing, making autonomous decisions about diagnosis, treatments or follow up.
- Evidence of degree level study and an education of mentorship qualification.
- Experience of teaching and supervising other nurses.
- Knowledge of recent advances in clinical IBD management.
- Good communication and negotiation skills.
- Able to problem solve and prioritise and work to deadlines.

### The application process

For the MSc pathway applicants will require;

- A completed application form with managers signed agreement
- Evidence of successful application for MSc ANP from one of the universities on our list.

For the RCN Credentialing pathway you will require:

- A completed application form with managers signed agreement
- Evidence of successful completion of an MSc in nursing or advanced nursing practice.

### What will being a Crohn's and Colitis UK Nurse Specialist involve?

- Attending x4 community practice study days per year (at our Hatfield offices, travel expenses paid).
- Working to our job description, delivering Crohn's & Colitis UK key strategies alongside their nhs role.

### What are the implications for me as an employer?

If your nurse is successful, we will ask that both they and their employer sign an MOU (Memorandum of Agreement) agreeing to their role as a Crohn's & Colitis UK Nurse Specialist for the duration of This document formally agrees;

- Funding agreements and arrangements
- Principles of collaboration
- Governance of the programme
- Branding for the role.

Once undertaking the programme, we will ask the nurse to attend

During the application process, a teleconference will be organised with all employers to talk through the MOU, it's content and discuss any concerns.

### More advice

If you have any further questions, please contact us directly: [isobel.mason@crohnsandcolitis.org.uk](mailto:isobel.mason@crohnsandcolitis.org.uk)