

# Advanced Nurse Practitioner

## A patient's guide

**STAYWELL**

**Advanced nurse practitioners (ANPs) are highly qualified health professionals.**

Just as when you see a GP or a practice nurse, you will see an ANP in a private consultation room.

Seeing the ANP does not replace an appointment with a doctor. You will still be able to see your GP if you need to.

Please let the surgery know if you need to cancel or reschedule your appointment.

Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANPs) have been introduced to address many issues:

- Patients have historically had problems getting an appointment
- Patients with chronic or complex cases have had difficulties booking a repeat appointment with the same doctor
- A national shortage of GPs has led to difficulties recruiting to GP posts



This leaflet explains the role of the Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) and the benefits they bring.

### Advanced (Why Advanced?)

Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANP) are highly skilled senior nurses with advanced clinical skills. This allows them to:

- Take a full medical history
- Carry out physical assessments and examinations
- Make a diagnosis and carry out treatment
- Prescribe medicines
- Plan follow up treatment
- Refer patients for investigations

### Nurse (Areas of expertise?)

Patients with an acute (or short term) illness may see an ANP rather than a GP. Illnesses include:

- Coughs and respiratory infections
- earache
- urinary symptoms
- back pains and other musculoskeletal complaints
- constipation
- indigestion and heartburn
- emergency contraception

This is not an exhaustive list, many ANPs will be able to treat more conditions. Your ANP will have constant access to your GP for advice and support will consult them as needed.

Where the ANP is unable to deal with a presenting problem, they will refer the patient immediately to a GP. GPs will still be available to treat patients who have complex health needs.

### Practitioner (What qualifications?)

ANPs are registered nurses with further qualifications at an advanced level. They have at least a first Degree in Nursing. Many have a Masters Degree in Advanced Clinical Practice. Others will be working towards their Masters qualification.

ANPs will only see patients where they and the GP have agreed it is within their ability.

All staff are supportive of the ANP role in the practice. The aim of implementing the ANP service is to enhance the service available for patients.

### Patient Benefits

- An increase in the number of available appointments
- Shorter waiting times for appointments
- Patients will be referred to the GP if the ANP is unable to deal with the presenting problem
- ANPs will enable GPs to have time to deal with complex cases
- Introducing ANPs will allow patients to book repeat appointments with the same clinician

