

National Dermatology Nurse Audit Collaborative Working between the British Dermatology Nursing Group and AbbVie Ltd

Executive Summary

This is an executive summary outlining the Collaborative Working project being undertaken between the British Dermatology Nursing Group (BDNG) and AbbVie Ltd, seeking to understand the current NHS dermatology nursing practice and standard of care, using the Clinical Dermatology Nursing Role Descriptors (published July 2020) as a reference point.

We are undertaking this collaborative working project to identify the training and resource needs of dermatology nursing practice within the UK, so that dermatology services may best understand the needs and experience of their team. Using the results of digital surveys and a two-week real time audit of nurse activity, a report will be generated from which action plans may be generated so nursing services may more effectively leverage the experience and skills of their nursing team to improve the standard of care for dermatology patients.

The purpose of this collaborative working project is to:

- To audit current practise against the published clinical role descriptors
- To identify roles and services that can be developed and supported
- To develop action plans that can support key areas which have been identified

Within the project the key objectives are to:

- Understand the national state of the dermatology service, at the individual dermatology nurse level, how this aligns with the Clinical Dermatology Nursing Role Descriptors, and their clinical and non-clinical responsibilities.
- Understand the current dermatology service at a national level, including the number of nurses and the WTE (FTE) of staff within each band, their clinical responsibilities, the estimated proportion of nursing time spent on dermatology-related care, and the estimated time spent on dermatology-related research and audit.
- Understand the type and length of appointments that each service offers and how many patients attend their clinics
- Compare the expected clinical responsibilities with the actual clinical tasks that individual nurses and services carry out on daily basis.
- Share the findings of the project with UK dermatology nurses and to explore the themes identified in the course of the project, so as to generate potential actions that may aid in services optimising the experience and training of their staff.
- This project will be co-lead by the BDNG and the AbbVie UK Dermatology Medical Team; the project will initiate in October 2021 and the estimated completion date will be August 2022.

Intended benefits of the project

In line with the Collaborative Working principles of the 2021 ABPI code, the project is intended to have direct benefits for the NHS, with further potential indirect benefits for patients.

The NHS & BDNG:

- A greater understanding of dermatology nursing services
- Identification of gaps within UK dermatology nursing services
- Understanding what key actions may be required to support dermatology nursing services

AbbVie:

- Improved experience working in partnership with the BDNG and an opportunity to demonstrate the value of collaborative working initiatives
- Greater insight into the state of dermatology nursing services within the UK the impact on patient care.
- A greater understanding of dermatology nursing services across the UK, so as to generate more valuable and impactful medical education for dermatology nurses.

Project Outcomes

- A full report on comparing the expected vs of reality dermatology nurse services across the UK
- A greater understanding dermatology nurse training and experience
- A more effective utilisation of dermatology nursing services for patient care across the UK
- Improved standard of care for patients treated within NHS dermatology nursing services

For further information please contact: centralisationteam@abbvie.com

ABBVIE LTD

AbbVie House

Vanwall Road

M Maidenhead

Berkshire

SL6 4UB

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