



Referral For Radiological Investigations – Clinical & Programme Experience

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RANP Injury Unit Mallow

**A TRADITION OF
INDEPENDENT
THINKING**



University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Overview

Healthcare Issues and Nursing

Background – personal

Advanced Nursing Practice

Development of educational provision

Personal Reflections

Healthcare Issues and Nursing – Context

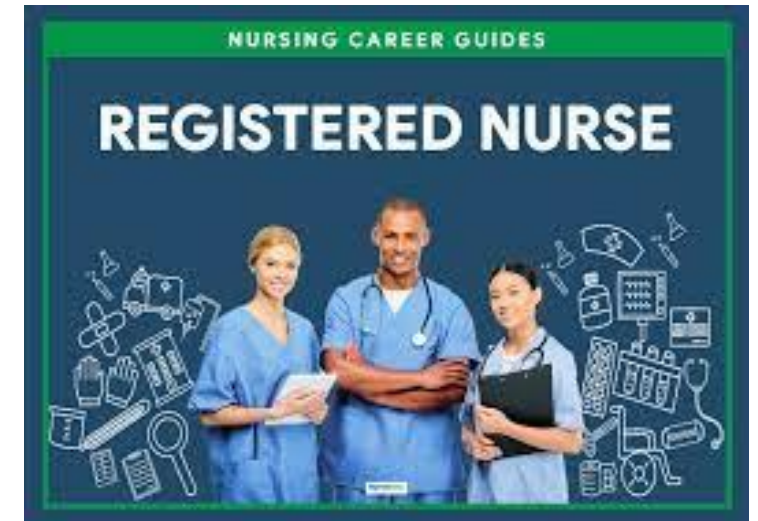
- Emerging challenges in the provision of healthcare emerging in 90's
- ED care provision significantly challenged
- Pressures on nursing profession to respond
- Report of the Commission on Nursing – 1998
- Educational clinical career pathway changes
- Establishment of advanced practice roles in ED
- Educational provision for roles
- Legislation lagged behind scope expansion
- Workarounds for referral attempted

Educational Background – Experienced Student

- General Nurse Training
- Post Registration Cert Midwifery
- Dip Management & Employee Relations
- HDip in Nursing (A&E)
- BSc Nursing
- MSc in Nursing
- Post MSc Training in ANP ED (St James's and TCD)
- Nurse Prescribing Medicinal Products Cert (UCC)
- Nurse Prescribing of Radiological Procedures Cert (HSE)
- Doctor of Nursing Degree
- PGDip Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

Professional Experience – Influencing Educational Approaches

- Various roles and posts developed broad experience
 - Pre-reg training
 - Post reg – ICU/ED/Med-surg Post reg midwifery X 2 year
 - Acute Medicine
 - ED – Staff nurse/CNM1/CNM2
 - Lecturer (with weekly ED practice)
 - Staff nurse and ANP candidate (ED) ANP ED CUH – since 2005
 - Concurrent – teach and lead PGDipTrauma & Emergency Nursing
 - Lecturer UCC – secondment 2017 – 2021, perm 2021 with continued clinical practice
 - RANP – Injury Unit Mallow
 - Committees and working
- Influenced by experience of receiving education, developing education, practicing nursing, developing roles and participation in wider nursing development



Advanced Nursing Practice



Advanced practice nursing is defined as a career pathway for registered nurses, committed to continuing professional development and clinical supervision, to practice at a higher level of capability as independent, autonomous, and expert practitioners. (NMBI, 2017)



Expert and autonomous clinical practice, professional and clinical leadership, teaching and research



Expert clinical practice involves – history taking, examination, investigation (including radiological), diagnosis, treatment, prescribing, admission/follow-up/discharge



Radiological procedures/investigations an important part of managing caseload and working to the **'top of license'**

Experiences – Early ANP Days (2005)



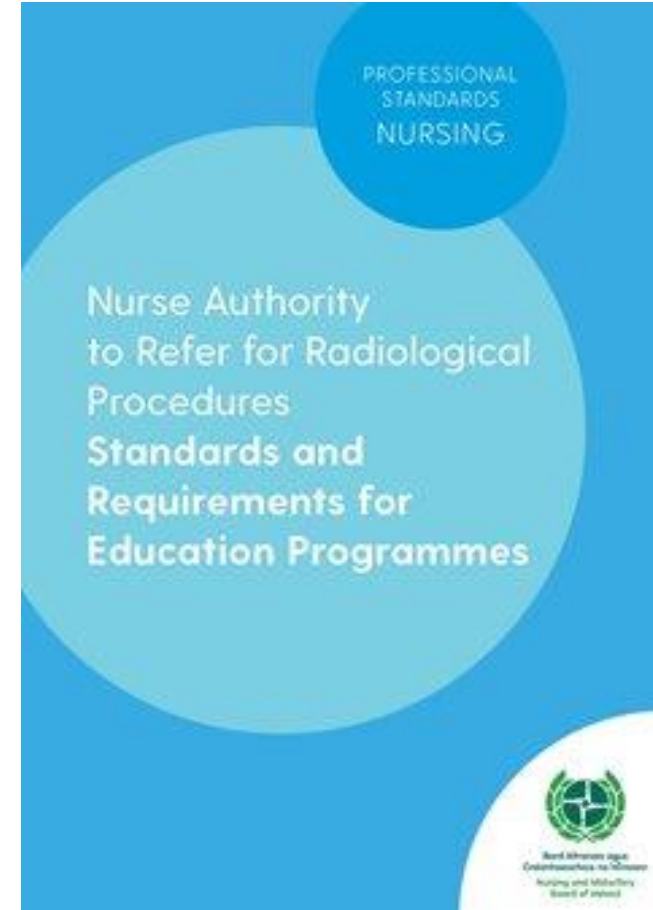
- Defined caseload based on an established service and patient need
- First service in the SHB region at the time
- Steering group and project groups with stakeholder involvement
- Rejection of access radiological procedures for caseload
 - Reason – not supported in legislation
- Similar rejection experienced trying to access all specialties at time
- Attempting to access investigations led to friction and conflict
- *Solutions worked out through discussion and relationship building – delegated responsibility*

Legal Provision

- SI 303 2007
- Nurses added to definition of prescriber

"a person whose name is entered on the register of nurses as maintained by An Bord Altranais established by the Nurses Act 1985 and who meets the standards and requirements set down by An Bord Altranais from time to time to allow them to refer individuals for medical exposures to a practitioner"

- NMBI Standards and Requirements Issued



Did Legislative Change Help?

- Yes and No!
- Further HSE guidance issued – Suggested investigations – restrictive (interpreted as limits – not reflective of practice)
- Local Implementation Groups
- Experience of ‘circular discussion’ with little or no progress
- Appeared to be little understanding of Nursing Scope of Practice and professional responsibilities
- Nurses practicing at clinical specialist and advanced practice level unable to access high dose and non-ionising investigation for patients – restriction in caseload and response to healthcare pressures

SI 256



New Standards and Requirements from NMBI – ANP and Referral for Radiological Procedures



Co-incident with Government Policy to increase AN/MP numbers in response to service needs



HSE Increased numbers of AN/MPs – SLA with UCC, UCD, TCD, NUIG (and later UL) for education programme



Demand for education programmes emerging in many areas as services redesign and roles evolve

Developing the Programme

- Discuss with Head of School
- Review Standards and Requirements (NMBI, 2020)
- **Collaboration** – meet with head of Department of Radiology (Prof Maher) and lecturer (Dr Owen J O'Connor, Cons Radiologist)
- **Develop the team** - Dr O'Connor and Prof Mark McEntee (Department of Diagnostic Radiography) UCC
- **Develop the Curriculum** - based on Standards and Requirements (NMBI) and RP175 curriculum requirements
- ***Issues beyond Standards and Requirements based on previous experience identified and incorporated into curriculum***
- **Curriculum Approval** – UCC and NMBI

About the Programme – Blended Learning Approach

The screenshot shows the UCC Graduate Studies Office website. The header includes the UCC logo (Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh) and the text 'Graduate Studies Office Oifig na Staidéar Iarchéime'. Navigation links for 'COURSES', 'MY UCC', and 'SEARCH' are visible, along with a 'MENU' button. The main banner features a 3D model of an atom with the text 'Ionizing Radiation' and 'UCC CPD COURSES Authority to Refer for Radiological Procedures NU6169'. A small shield icon is in the bottom left corner of the banner.

Entry Requirements - Considerations

- ***Have completed a module in patient physical assessment***
- Have a ***minimum*** of 1 year's recent post registration clinical experience in nursing within the last 3 years.
- Provide evidence from an employer by way of a completed site declaration form, signed by the Director of Nursing / Authorised Nurse Manager, the nominated Clinical Supervisor (Medical Practitioner) and the Head of Radiology (Consultant Radiologist). This must contain confirmation of a designated Medical Practitioner who will act as a Clinical Supervisor providing. ***supervision, support and learning opportunities, including opportunities to practice under supervision to gain the required competencies and clinical competence in authority to refer for radiological procedures***

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate a systematic and practical understanding of the regulatory framework associated with authority to refer for radiological procedures, including the legislation and professional guidelines supporting safe practice.
- Critically and practically utilise evidence-based knowledge and the skill of patient/service user assessment and consultation to achieve a holistic approach to patient/service user care in referring for radiological procedures in adults/children.
- Demonstrate an understanding of radiological sciences in relation to radiological procedures in adults/children and its implication for patient/service user safety in adults/children.
- Demonstrate effective communication skills and knowledge of multi-disciplinary management in the safe and appropriate use of radiological procedures in adults/children.
- Apply clinical decision-making skills in relation to referring for radiological procedures in adults/children within her/his scope of practice.
- Demonstrate the ability to refer for justified radiological procedures in adults/children as part of a multi-disciplinary team

Ready to Practice and Ready to Refer



Unit 1 – Legal and Regulatory Issues

Legislation – SI256/2018

Regulation and guidelines

Legal liability and clinical indemnity

Informed consent

Unit 2 – Governance and Professional Issues

Responsibility and accountability

Evidence based practice

Critical review and audit

Policies and procedures

Risk management

Clinical governance

Unit 3 - Ionising Radiation

- Part 1 – Radiation physics (atomic structure, understanding waves, understanding electromagnetic waves, the electromagnetic spectrum, radiation interacting with matter, alpha and beta particles)
- Part 2 – Electromagnetic radiation (intro to EM radiation, ELF , radiowaves, microwave, infrared, visible light)
- Part 3 – Ionising radiation (UV, x-rays, gamma rays, biological repair pathways, biological effects of ionising radiation, ionising radiation risk to children)
- Part 4 – Imaging modalities (x-ray exams, fluoroscopy, CT, radiation therapy, nuclear medicine, MRI, ultrasound, GU tract modalities)
- Part 5 – Dosimetry (dosimetry in practice, dosimetry in radiology)

Programme

Unit 4 - Radiation Protection

- Radiation protection
- Personalised risk
- Protection of the potentially pregnant
- Governance
- Part 1 - Justification (overview in practice, of x-ray examinations, communicating justification for the ECR 2021, paed and adult risk/benefit communication, radiation protection justification, referral guidelines, justification in paed, HERCA appropriate use of medical imaging)
- Part 2 – Optimisation (radiation dosage and image quality, ALARA in paed imaging, radiation protection optimisation principles)
- Part 3 – Dose limitations (dose limits, DLRs, dose limits and tracking in radiology, doses in IBD, DLR in practice)

Unit 5 - Preparation for Clinical Practice

- Ionising radiation guidelines for practice
- National Guidelines and the Role of the ONMSD
- Review of physical examination
- Clinical decision-making and diagnostic reasoning
- X-ray request writing (paper and electronic)

Unit 6 - Clinical Practicum

- Completion of clinical practice experience and assessment under clinical supervision

Influence of Experience and Education - Reflections

- ***Patient remains central to all decisions – clinical and educational***
- Changing practice is tough but that shouldn't get in the way of improvement - learn to work with it
- There are alternative worldviews to your own – listen to them but also share yours
- Building relationships and trust takes time, effort and respect
- If it is right for the patient it is worth the effort
- Work within scope and in accordance with professional standards
- Governance is important and should be facilitative rather than restrictive
- Imaging is an adjunct to practice – it does not replace your knowledge, skill and experience as a clinician



Thank you!

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Final thought.....

Perfection is the enemy of progress.....

