

Advanced Practitioner

Deepak Agnihotri—Advanced Clinical Practitioner

Deepak Agnihotri is an Advanced Clinical Practitioner in Learning Disabilities and Autism at Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust



Deepak is an advanced clinical practitioner (ACP) in learning disabilities and autism (LD&A), who is Health and Care Professionals Council (HCPC) registered. He is also an Allied Health Professional and with extensive experience of working in the NHS.

Deepak was born in India, where he completed his undergraduate degree in physiotherapy, where the course was four and a half years and covered a broad curriculum. After qualifying, he worked in Mumbai, and then moved to the UK to complete his post graduate education at the University of Salford where he was able to study gait analysis and manual therapy. He completed his MSc in Advancing Physiotherapy, going on to work in research at three different NHS trusts, before he entered the role at Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS foundation trust in 2016.

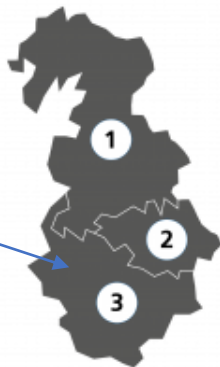
He works alongside a range of health care professions in his multidisciplinary team, such as nurses, doctors, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, clinical psychologists, physiotherapists, and assistants

Currently as advanced clinical practitioner, he is working across the four pillars of advanced practice. On a typical day he will see three or four patients. The assessment and treatment sessions including non-medical prescribing can take a lot longer due to the communication issues and complex conditions. He could see service users at their home, in hospital and in day centres. He will often see people over the course of a couple of months to help them achieve their goal and improve or maintain functional independence.

He believes that a lot of people don't realise that individuals with learning disabilities often have complex physical health and postural problems with their bodies, which can lead to pain and even respiratory conditions like aspiration pneumonia which can be managed by specialist physiotherapy intervention. As a member of a multidisciplinary team, the first job is usually to identify individual problems and then create a person-centred care plan. A care plan can include hydrotherapy, respiratory treatment, 24-hour postural management and one-to-one or group therapy sessions. The team also assess for bespoke seating and sleep system to support people. Staff and carers are trained to help deliver safe and effective care to learning disabilities service users.

“ I'd recommend a career in physiotherapy as an AHP in NHS to anyone as it offers endless opportunities, great job satisfaction and work – life balance. It's a very good profession that teaches you specialist skills that you can use to make a difference to someone's life.”

- 1. Lancashire and South Cumbria
- 2. Greater Manchester
- 3. Cheshire and Merseyside



Chester

“ It’s so rewarding when you are able to give happiness to people in trouble by helping them to enjoy life. It feels amazing when I hear about patients going on to lead active lives and families feel supported by person centred plan.”

Deepak led on the project of ethical and sustainable international recruitment of Allied Health Professionals at Health Education England. He works strategically at the national level in collaboration with stakeholders and Professional Bodies to make a positive impact demonstrating the value of the role of AHP and ACP. He also works as a visiting lecturer teaching trainee advanced practitioner at higher education institute in North West of England.

He has also been working as the BAME Allied Health Professions Strategic advisor at NHS England and Improvement. He has now taken on a leadership role and as Chair of Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) + network now called Diversity Alliance Network.

In early 2022 the North West Faculty for Advancing Practice recruited Deepak as their Training Programme Director (TPD) for LD&A, where he is supporting trainee ACPs and colleagues to become successful ACPs working across the 4 pillars.

In Deepak’s TPD role, he is establishing an advanced practice forum for trainee ACPs, utilising his teamwork, leadership, and project skills. This project will benefit many trainee ACPs by providing them with a platform for collaboration and support.

JOB ROLES FOR CLINICAL PILLAR

- Assessment and treatment sessions
- Non-medical prescribing
- Creating and facilitating person centred care plans
- Managing patients with complex needs

CLINICAL

JOB ROLES FOR LEADERSHIP PILLAR

- Led project of ethical & sustainable international recruitment of AHPs
- BAME Allied Health Professions Strategic advisor
- Chair of Diversity Alliance Network
- TPD for LD&A in north west

LEADERSHIP

JOB ROLES FOR EDUCATION PILLAR

- Lecturer, teaching trainee ACPs at HEIs
- Delivering training sessions for carers and support staff
- Supporting students, team members and trainees in other specialties

EDUCATION

JOB ROLES FOR RESEARCH PILLAR

- Co-author of research study in Gait and Posture journal
- Developing strategies and policies
- Audit and service reviews

RESEARCH

Deepak works across the four pillars of Advanced Practice