

## Advanced Practitioner

Dr Jessica di Gesso – Advanced Clinical Practitioner in Acute Medicine

### Jessica is an Advanced Clinical Practitioner working in Acute Medicine at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust



Jessica started her healthcare career as a pharmacy assistant, going on to complete a Masters degree in pharmacy. Whilst working as a community pharmacist and pharmacy manager, Jessica studied for a PGDip in General Pharmacy Practice and was inspired by this experience to go onto accomplish a PhD in Molecular Pharmacology and Nutritional Medicine. Jessica enjoyed her time researching but missed being patient-facing so joined Addenbrooke's Hospital as a band 6 pharmacist and shortly moved to a band 7 position in the emergency department. Whilst undertaking her non-medical prescriber certification Jessica met an advanced clinical practitioner who inspired her to become an advanced practitioner herself so that she could fully utilise her skills.

In her advanced practitioner role Jessica has clinical expertise in pharmaceuticals and undertakes a range of clinical practice, such as: comprehensive physical examinations, prescribing medications, taking bloods, removing cannulas, inserting catheters, she is currently learning to perform chest drains and lumbar punctures.

Jessica has clinical leadership responsibilities within her role; she leads and supervises the junior medical team (when there is not a consultant on the ward) and provides expert pharmaceutical advice to her colleagues.

Jessica supports the education of junior medical staff; she trains them to use medical equipment and hospital systems and coaches them when they need advice on medical issues. She also provides advice to the wider team on pharmaceuticals.

In her role, Jessica participates in audits and has also led on an audit. Jessica plans to undertake more research within her advanced practice role in the future, specifically on identifying system issues that can have a detriment to patient experience.

“ I would feel very reassured if it was [Jessica] treating myself, family or friends.

- Junior doctor

“Working with Jess is not just a pleasure, but she is also absolutely reliable, intelligent and is always on top of everything. I feel safer when working with Jessica as I know it will be a pleasurable shift with a person I trust who has total empathy and cares about the patients and about giving herself to their best care. She always pursues and achieves excellence of care. I do hope I’ll work with Jess for many periods as it has been always amazing” – Nurse

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[Jessica is] a fantastic patient advocate both clinically and holistically

- Consultant

Jessica’s role as an advanced practitioner has as an impact on patient experience and service delivery in the hospital; her role enables her to have the skills and autonomy to support the multi-disciplinary team on the ward as well as provide direct consultation and advice to patients and their families.

What Jessica enjoys most about her role is being an integral part of the ward team; she describes the medical advanced practitioner role as “Ward Glue”. People come to Jessica for small problems and big problems alike which makes her feel useful and appreciated. As someone who loves improving patient experience and expediting tasks, Jessica also believes that she is good at encouraging others and helping them to shine; she gains joy seeing someone increase in confidence and flourish.



**JOB ROLES FOR CLINICAL PILLAR**

Clinical expertise in pharmaceuticals

Performs comprehensive physical examinations

Prescribes medications



**JOB ROLES FOR LEADERSHIP PILLAR**

Leads and supervises junior medical staff

Provides expert pharmaceutical advice



**JOB ROLES FOR EDUCATION PILLAR**

Trains staff on equipment and systems

Coaches staff seeking advice on medical issues and pharmaceuticals



**JOB ROLES FOR RESEARCH PILLAR**

Conducts audits

CLINICAL

LEADERSHIP

EDUCATION

RESEARCH

Jessica works across the four pillars of Advanced Practice

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