Advanced Paramedic Practitioner programmes: a LAS case study

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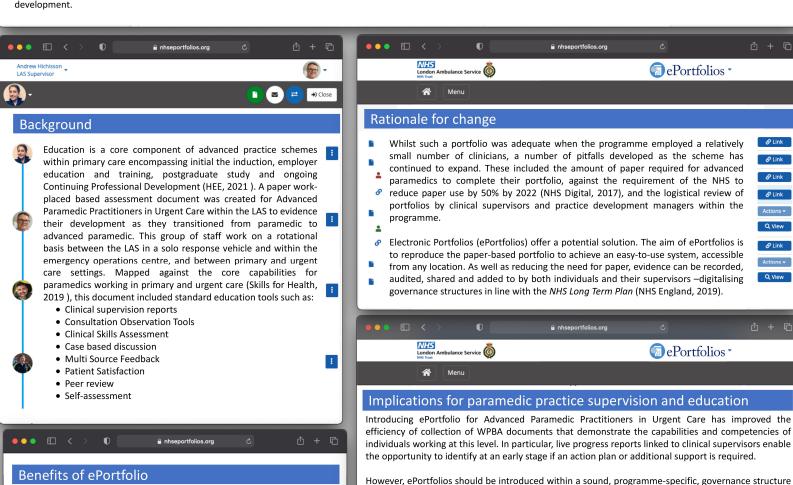


Advanced Practitioners have been highlighted as an integral part of the 21st century NHS workforce. With a pivotal role outlined within the NHS Five Year Forward View (NHS, 2014), advanced practice is posited to be the answer to changing workforce demands in the context of a changing health and social care environment (Department of Health, 2010).

Attempts to standardise advanced practice across allied health and nursing professions has been a strategic arm of Health Education England for a number of years (HEE, 2017). Encompassing four pillars of Clinical Practice, Education, Research and Leadership, Advanced Practitioners are educated to Master's level and have developed the skills and knowledge to allow them to take on expanded roles and scope of practice caring for patients (HEE, 2017).

Advanced practice schemes are already well established within emergency medicine (RCEM, 2018), and advanced practitioner roles are becoming increasingly common in primary care. It is unsurprising that UK ambulance services have simultaneously developed Advanced Paramedic Practitioner (APP) programmes to offer career development for paramedics within the ambulance service setting. Within London Ambulance Service NHS Trust, the Advanced Paramedic Practitioner in Urgent Care programme was established in 2017 with a view to provide additional health assessment and care on scene and reduce unnecessary emergency department admissions within the nation's capital.

National examinations, such as the College of Paramedics Diploma in Primary and Urgent Care, require submission of a work- place based assessment portfolio, as will future entry onto the advanced practice directory held by Centre for Advancing Practice within England. To ensure advanced paramedics can evidence their development and attainment of this level of practice, good governance is required to demonstrate work at an advanced practice level as well as maintaining regulatory and employer requirements for continuing professional development.



References

that works for both employing organisations whilst also giving flexibility of staff to work in other

Introducing ePortfolios within the ambulance service that are linked to bodies such as the HCPC, CoP,

HEE and RCEM would improve the process of fulfilling registration and credentialling requirements, as

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well as enable transferability of staff portfolio across different care settings.

The implementation of an ePortfolio system for APP-UC in LAS has outlined many benefits to the individual clinicians and clinical managers within the programme, as well as the organisation as whole. This includes:

- Access to the portfolio on any Backup in case of loss or damage connected device, regardless of the clinical setting
- Instant notification of completion for practice supervisors and managers
- Linking records to credentialing criteria
- · Generation of compliance reports
- Zero paper use.

Negatives of ePortfolio

• Internet connection required to sync forms (offline completion still