

Surgical Care Practitioners

The role of surgical care practitioner (SCP) was introduced to the Trust in 2002 with the appointment of the Colorectal SCP and by 2004 the team had grown to four.

A SCP is an enhancement to the surgical team that they work with, offering another permanent member of the surgical team. They work closely with the surgeons and provide a training role for both medical and nursing staff.

Patients benefit from the role as SCPs work across the patient journey, seeing patients in clinics, pre-operative assessment, surgery and on the ward. They also provide a range of specialist skills, all of which offers the patient a holistic approach to patient care.

Career development

- training consists of a two year degree course, written examination and clinical competencies
- trainees have to attend courses in medico legal law, anatomy and basic surgical skills
- each role has been led by service demand and many have developed and evolved over time
- this role enables senior staff to progress whilst remaining clinically based
- the Addenbrooke's team have provided education on a regional, national and international level, having presented in Japan, France and Italy



The future ...

Addenbrooke's plans to expand the surgical care practitioner team by two in the short term and by at least a further two in the mid term. There will be an SCP in ENT/ Head and Neck and another in plastics and teams such as Gynae/ oncology are developing business plans to provide funding for others.

SCPs have released over 1,000 doctors hours from theatre and clinic related tasks per year, enabling them to spend more time with patients and training commitments.

Some of the different roles ...

Colorectal SCP

- first assistant for major bowel cancer surgery
- undertakes fast track clinics and performs pre-operative assessment
- lead SCP for team

Plastics/reconstruction SCP

- first assistant for major plastic reconstruction surgery
- undertakes pre- and post-operative clinics
- runs a nipple tattooing clinic following breast reconstruction
- performs minor procedures on ward

Urology/Robotics SCP

- first assistant for major uro/ oncology surgery
- first assistant for robotic surgery
- pre- and post-operative visits
- clinics
- lead for audit

Vascular SCP

- first assistant for major vascular surgery
- vein harvesting
- pre-clerking clinic
- nurse-led vascular clinic – varicose vein treatments
- lead for audit