

# Implementation of a 7-day Clinical Pharmacist

## Service to Adult Critical Care

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### Introduction

Adult Critical Care at NUH is a fast-paced direct admissions area that receives acutely unwell patients with complex and rapidly evolving pharmaceutical needs. Evidence supports that pharmacists, as integral members of the team, reduce medication errors and enhance patient outcomes by optimising and individualising medication therapy.<sup>1,2</sup> The COVID -19 pandemic accelerated the opportunity to demonstrate the positive impact of 7 day working and post-pandemic service development gave the opportunity to make this provision permanent.

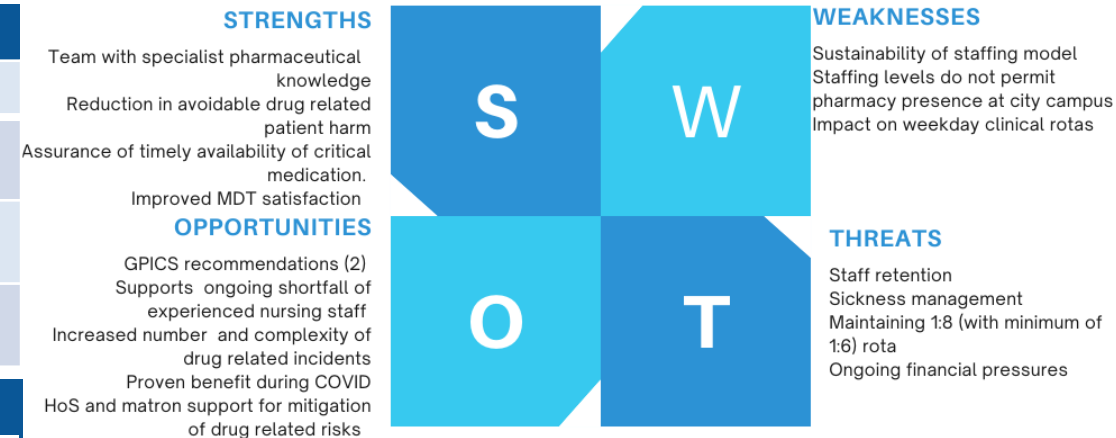
### Contributions to care made over 5 weekends

**32** new admissions had their **medicines reconciled and optimised** within 24 hours

**16 major contributions to care.** Examples are where failure to intervene would have resulted in patient harm e.g. prescribing IV tacrolimus unintentionally omitted for 24 hours.

**158 minor contributions to care.** Examples would include dose optimisation in Acute Kidney Injury, advice to nursing staff promoting safe IV administration.

**35** patients received **proactive advice / pharmacist prescribing decisions** related to monitoring of complex drug therapies e.g. Vancomycin infusions



### Implementation timeline



### Service Provision

8am-4pm Weekends & Bank Holidays based at QMC. Remote support to City campus

Daily review of unstable patients with complex/evolving pharmaceutical needs

Medicines reconciliation (where possible) for all new admissions within 24 hours.

Review of 'high risk' patients referred by the medical, nursing or pharmacy teams

Visible pharmacist presence for advice and to promote safe medicines administration.

Timely medication supply to minimise missed doses due to lack of availability.

### Summary

As integral members of the team, pharmacists can no longer continue to justify a full service Monday-Friday with only a dispensary supply based weekend provision. A permanent 7 day presence within Adult Critical Care at the QMC acute campus has been active for over 12 months. It has been received as a welcome and valued service improvement by the MDT. Imminent introduction of electronic prescribing opens up possibilities of remote pharmacist clinical review of new prescribing activity to the patient cohort based at City campus.

References:

- Bourne RS, Shulman, Bourne RS, Shulman R, Jennings JK. Reducing medication errors in critical care patients: pharmacist key resources and relationship with medicines optimisation. International Journal of Pharmacy Practice. 2018 Dec ;26(6):534-40.
- The Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine and Intensive Care Society. Guidelines for the provision of Intensive Care services (GPICS) July 2022 version 2:1, accessed via <https://ics.ac.uk/resource/gpics-v2-1.html>

